



# Alive!



CULTURAL AFFAIRS/PUBLIC WORKS

# A New Vision

The curtain will rise in 2025 on the Vision Theatre restoration, bringing a new beacon of light to Leimert Park.

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On stage at the nearing-completion Vision Theater in South LA are (from left) Daniel Tarica, General Manager, Cultural Affairs; Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, Club Member; and Asatur Keymetlyan, Sr. Architect, Public Works/Engineering.



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# Seeing a Vision

Have you ever seen a dream being built? That is precisely what we witness in the stunning cover story this month on the Vision Theatre. This project, after many years of restoration and a pandemic, is nearing the end next year toward a grand opening in 2025.



Looking skyward are (from left) Club COO Summy Lam; Asatur Keymetlyan, Public Works/Engineering; and Yvonne Farrow and Daniel Tarica, Cultural Affairs.

The four in this photo in this blog – **Summy Lam, Asatur Keymetlyan, Yvonne Farrow** and **Daniel Tarica** – look like I did when I first saw our stunning photos of this incredible City project! High above them is a brand new chandelier, for certain, but it hardly matters. This entire project deserves the same wonder.

It is not possible to emphasize what this project will mean for Leimert Park, South LA, and all of Los Angeles, really. I will let you read the words of Yvonne Farrow, Club Member and longtime performing artist, to better understand. She describes the Vision Theatre as a beacon of light, and I am not one to disagree.

In this story, I see a lot of City departments – and employees – working together. I feel that is very important to the bright future of our home.

If I can brag a little – I give a high five to the Club’s outstanding photographers – Summy Lam, **Rebecca DeBolt** and **Dearbhla McNulty**, who turned in excellent work. We insist on first-rate photography in our cover stories and always have. Club Members who work hard every day improving our City deserve nothing less.

Finally, I extend special thanks to **Juan Garcia** at Cultural Affairs for helping us develop this important and beautiful story.

## ROBERT’S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



### Batter Up

As we continue our recovery from the pandemic, the Club is delighted to have sponsored our first softball tournament on Labor Day. The hard work of Club Sports Commissioner **Noelle Kauffman**, Club Member **Jane Hauptman** and all the coaches in pulling it together is clear to see. City employees deserve the Club’s honor and thanks for all the incredible work you do every day. It is our mission to give back to you.

### Worth Considering

In a company email, Club Director of IT **Petros Khachatryan** shared this: “Many receive advice; only the wise profit from it.” These words hold so much truth and wisdom.

I suggest we embrace advice with open hearts and minds for the greater good. Let’s aim to benefit not only ourselves but also our communities and the world. Together, we can ignite a powerful wave of wisdom and inspiration that reaches far beyond ourselves.

Enjoy your first tastes of a beautiful fall season!

*¡Gracias por leer!*

— Robert Larios

# #ClubMobile Schedule\*



The #ClubMobile Team will bring benefits experts and Club legendary apparel for purchase at low prices (hats custom-made on site). It’s one of the best ways for staff to feel appreciated. Your employees will be grateful!

## Schedule a Site Visit

Contact **Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager:**  
 (213) 819-0350, or [mobile@employeesclub.com](mailto:mobile@employeesclub.com)

The Mobile Team sets up in the Harbor area the first Wednesday of every month:

**Wednesdays: Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6**

**Harbor Boys and Girls Club**

100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ADDITIONAL VISITS:

**Mon., Oct. 2**  
**North Central Sanitation**  
 452 N. San Fernando Rd.  
 6 – 11 a.m.

**Tues., Oct. 3**  
**Downtown LA Anchor**  
 120 W Second St.  
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Thurs., Oct. 5**  
**East Valley Sanitation**  
 1150 Pendleton St., Sun Valley  
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Wed., Oct. 11**  
**West LA Sanitation**  
 2027 Stoner Ave.  
 6 – 11 a.m.

**Fri., Oct. 13**  
**LSD Sanitation**  
 2649 E. Washington Blvd.  
 6 – 11 a.m.

**Wed., Oct. 18**  
**South LA Sanitation**  
 786 S. Mission Rd.  
 6 – 11 a.m.

**Thurs., Oct. 19**  
**Airports Administration**  
 7301 World Way  
 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Fri., Oct. 20**  
**Harbor Sanitation**  
 1499 N. Gaffey St.  
 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Mon., Oct. 24**  
**West Valley Sanitation**  
 8840 Van Alden Ave.  
 6 – 11 a.m.

**Wed., Nov. 1**  
**Harbor Anchor**  
 100 W. Fifth St.  
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Mon., Nov. 6**  
**North Central Sanitation**  
 452 N. San Fernando Rd.  
 6 – 11 a.m.

**Tues., Nov. 7**  
**Downtown Anchor**  
 120 W. Second St.  
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



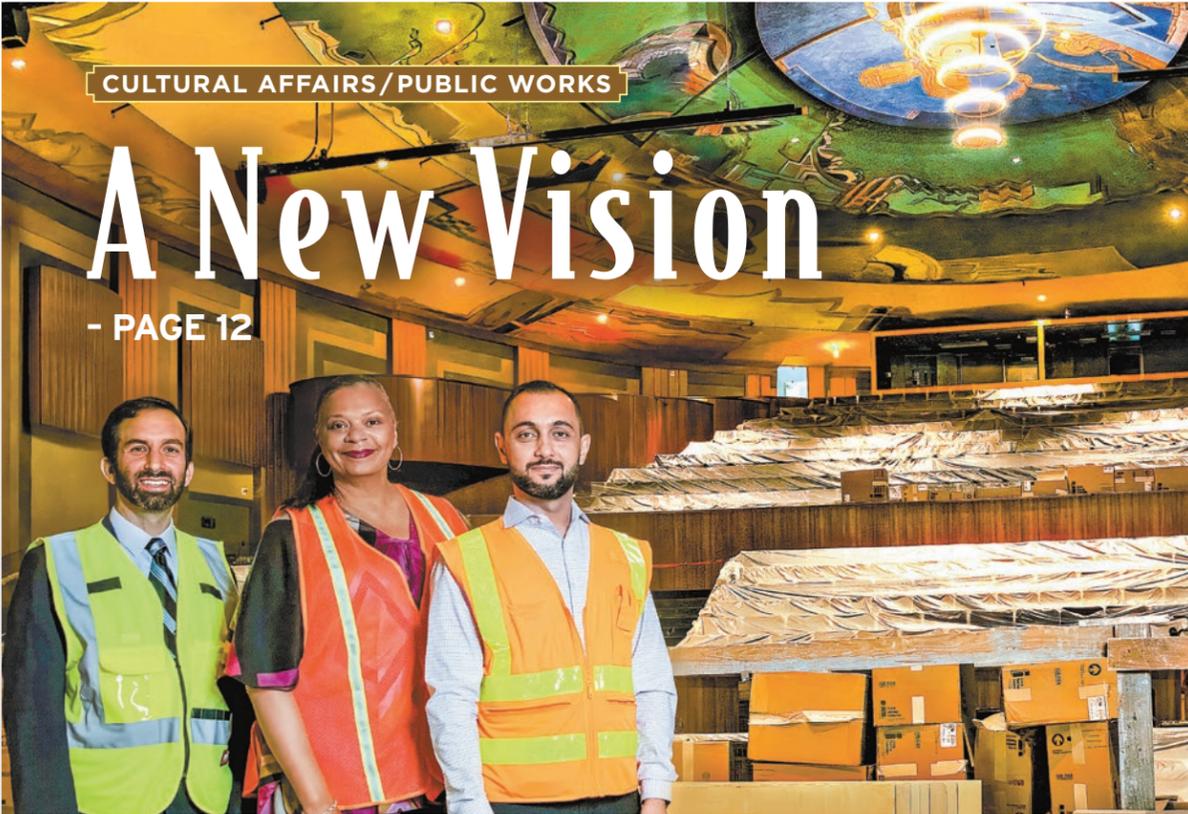
At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

**ATTENTION SUPERVISORS:**  
 Raise employee morale! Bring the Club to your worksite!

Follow Club social media for other days, times and locations as they are scheduled:  
 @EmployeesClub Employees Club of California @theClubofCA

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS/PUBLIC WORKS

# A New Vision

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A dramatic restoration is nearing completion on the Vision Theatre in Leimert Park.

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**Get more *Alive!* content at [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)**

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## NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!

[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)

### Rest Insured

See the Club's claims paid this month and feel confident in your Club insurance purchase.



### Library Top 10

See what your fellow Angelenos are reading, watching and grooving to.



### John's Picture Perfect

John's Picture Perfect – see all the winners from this month's contest with the theme "autumn."



**Hey Kids!**

## Coloring WITH THE CLUB CONTEST

Color it and **WIN!**  
4 free tickets to the



Ask an adult to print the coloring page: [alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest](http://alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest)

**ATTENTION SUPERVISORS:**  
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**#ClubMobile**  
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# Meet the Club Team

The Club Team is here to help you receive the full power of your Membership and bring value, financial confidence and fun to your families. We honor your hard work and service! How can we help you? Contact us, and we'll be in touch with urgency. It's our promise to you!

Contact our help desk for all your Club needs:  
**help@employeesclub.com**

## Member Experience Team

 <b>Noelle Kauffman</b> Director of Sales	 <b>Cesilee Castillo</b> Customer Service Representative	 <b>Mike Conner</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Cynthia Ha</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Scott Hanock</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Hannah Hawkins</b> Social Media Assistant
 <b>Dylan Herrero</b> Customer Service Representative	 <b>Joseph Koralik</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Cheryl Martin</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Marcus Martin</b> Customer Service Representative	 <b>Genesis Martinez-Flores</b> Customer Service Rep	 <b>Toby Pass</b> Member Services Counselor
 <b>Dylan Noel</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Eva Ramirez</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Lydia Rivera</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Ian Sollenberger</b> Member Services Counselor	 <b>Dalila Vielma</b> Member Services Counselor	

## Retail Operations

 <b>Guadalupe Lira</b> Retail Operations Manager	 <b>Rebecca DeBolt</b> Customer Service Representative	 <b>Eduardo Escalona</b> Mobile Operations Representative	 <b>Noah Hawkins</b> Customer Service Representative	 <b>Raul M. Salgado</b> Customer Service Representative	 <b>DeAngelo Thompson</b> Mobile Operations Representative
--	--	---	--	---	--

## Tickets & Benefits Procurement

 <b>Mariana Guevara</b> Tickets and Benefits Procurement	 <b>Megan Eckert</b> Tickets and Benefits Procurement Associate	 <b>Neil Kauffman</b> Marketing Assistant
--	---	---

## Claims

 <b>Monica Zamudio</b> Claims Administrator	 <b>Mikayla Sprague</b> Claims Administrator	 <b>Dulce Lopez</b> Claims Administrator
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## Information Technology

 <b>Petros Khachatryan</b> Director of IT	 <b>Citlali Bon</b> Data Quality Manager	 <b>Edith Bon-Sanchez</b> Data Processing Coordinator	 <b>Alan Bound</b> IT Business Analyst
 <b>Ronald Cortez</b> Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst	 <b>Natalia Guevara</b> Data Processing Coordinator	 <b>Rey Hernandez</b> IT Senior Developer	

## Accounting

 <b>Leigh Thompson</b> Controller	 <b>Clara Flores</b> Senior Accountant II
 <b>Daniel McAlinden</b> Senior Accountant	 <b>Frank Ochoa</b> IT Accountant

## LACEA Executive Officers

 <b>John Hawkins</b> President & CEO, Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc.	 <b>Brian Trent</b> Chief Financial Officer
--	---

## Employees Club of CA Executive Officers

 <b>Robert Larios</b> President & CEO, LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California	 <b>Summy Lam</b> Chief Operating Officer, LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California
---	---

## Business Development

 <b>Arlene Herrero</b> Vice President of Business Development
---

 <b>Tuyet Pham</b> Senior Accountant
--

### The Club Is Here to Help

Club staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

**Contact the Club**  
 if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.  
**help@employeesclub.com**  
**(800) 464-0452**

The Club Store Online  
 Open 24/7: **employeesclub.com**

# Alive!

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 John Hawkins and Robert Larios,  
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**LACEA (Association) Board of Directors**  
 Phillip Chou, *LADWP*  
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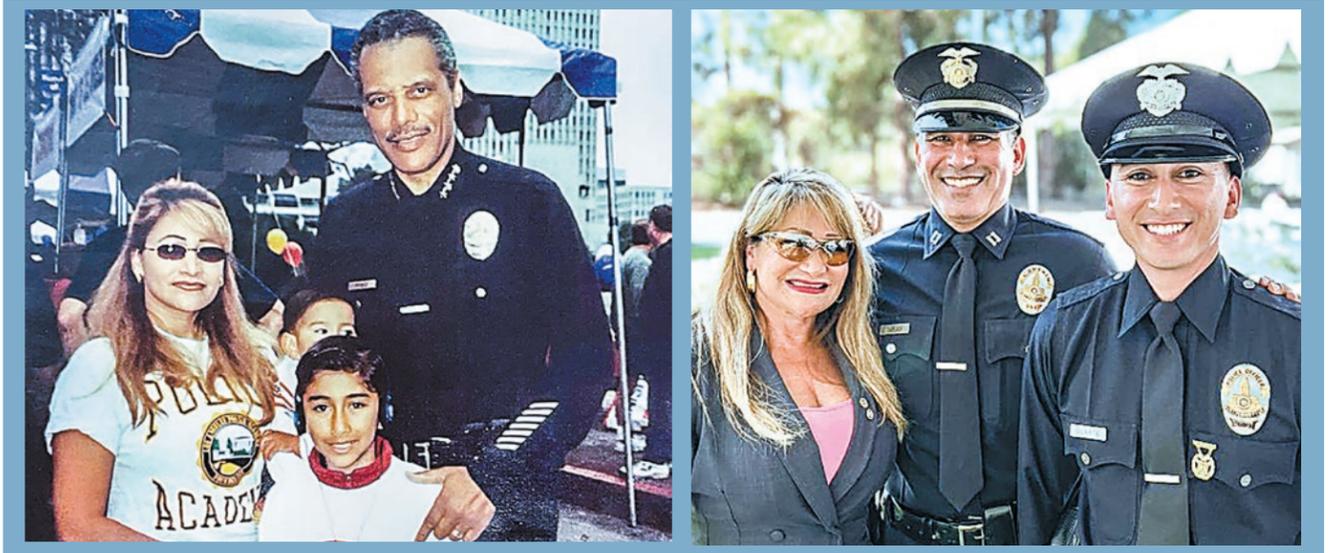
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— Robert Larios, Publisher, September 21, 2023



Then and now: Francisco Duarte and his mom with then-Chief Bernard Parks; and again with his mom at the LAPD graduation with Commanding Officer Alex Vargas.

## A Dream Fulfilled

YOUNG MAN DREAMS OF BECOMING AN LAPD OFFICER. NOW HE IS ONE.

Story and photos courtesy LAPD/Commander Alex Vargas

**LAPD:** Some 25 years ago, a young Francisco Duarte met and told then-Chief Bernard Parks that Francisco's dream was to become an LAPD Officer.

On Aug. 25, Francisco's dream became a reality with his graduation from the Los Angeles Police Academy.

Congratulations and welcome to the LAPD family, Officer Duarte! ●



# Club Spooktacular Specials

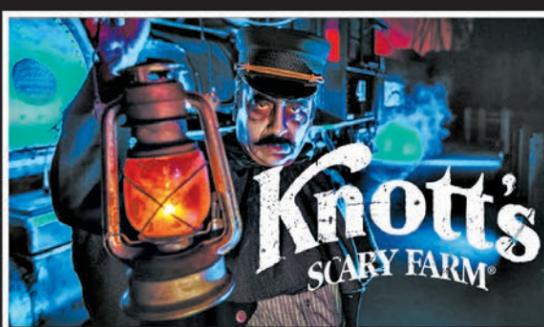
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Select Nights Now - Oct 31	Gate Price Starting at \$109 <sup>99</sup>	CLUB MEMBER Starting at \$54 <sup>99</sup>
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LEGOLAND  
MONSTER PARTY

Monster Party event activities start at 3pm. Prices vary by date of visit.

More details online.

Gate Price \$119	CLUB MEMBER \$75 <sup>20</sup>
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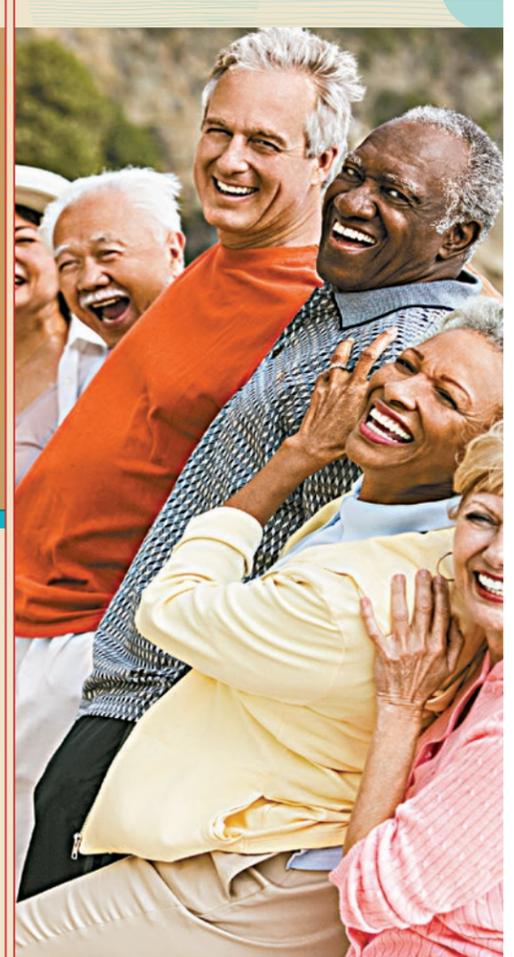
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# READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees and Those About to Retire



## YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO INSURANCE

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales

### Retirees, Make Sure You Maintain Membership and Access to Club Benefits

#### Hello Retirees!

Congratulations on your years of service with the City and the end to a beautiful career. However, this is not the end, it is the beginning of something new ... which means you must plan for this new season of life!

**FIRST STEP:** If you have not contacted the Club yet to complete a form to have your Club Membership and/or insurance deducted from your pension, please do so ASAP! Even if you are not newly Retired, please call (800) 464-0452 or email [help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com) and let us know that you are a Retiree and need to complete a pension form. Never worry

about a bill or late payment. Pension deduction is the most convenient and easiest way to handle your deductions. Offered to Club Members.

**SECOND STEP:** Protect your family from financial loss by applying for the Club's Life Insurance.

- Coverage is available for Members, spouses, and dependent children
- Benefits range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

**Speak to a Club Retirement Specialist. Don't wait!**

### Continue Your Club Connection!

**Attention!** If you're planning on retiring soon, newly Retired, or have been Retired but want to switch your deductions to be conveniently deducted from your pension, you must complete this Authorization Form. Without this form, your insurances and Membership might be discontinued, or you may incur back dues.

Simply scan or print this form, complete it and email it to [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com). Or mail it to:

**Employees Club of California**  
**Attn: Member Services**  
**311. S. Spring St., Suite 1300**  
**Los Angeles, CA. 90013**

#### Questions?

Don't hesitate to contact our Retiree specialists at [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com) or (800) 464-0452

### Retired or Retiring Soon?

Call for a FREE insurance benefits consultation with Member Services Counselor:



**Cheryl Martin**  
 (800) 464 -0452, EXT. 136  
 Work cell: (213) 819-0794  
 23 years of insurance experience  
 CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823

### 2023 Events

#### Dec. 16 LARFPA Holiday Celebration

Hilton Universal Hotel  
 555 Universal Hollywood Dr.  
 Noon - 4 p.m.  
 \$40 admission  
 Reservation information:  
[events@larfpa.org](mailto:events@larfpa.org)

### Contact Information

- Employees Club of California**  
 Club contact:  
[help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)
- Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS)** (City Dept.)  
 (800) 779-8328  
[lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org)
- LADWP Retirees Association**  
 Dolores Foley, *President*  
 (949) 388-1206  
[vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)
- Fire and Police Pensions** (City Dept.)  
 (844) 885-2377  
[pensions@lafpp.com](mailto:pensions@lafpp.com)
- LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)**  
 (888) 288-5073  
[membership@larfpa.org](mailto:membership@larfpa.org)
- Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)**  
 See page 6

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**Payroll Deduction Authorization Form**  
**Los Angeles City & DWP**

#### INSTRUCTION:

Please complete the following Payroll Deduction Authorization Form and return it to the Employees Club of California. Your payroll deduction will become effective as soon as the City Controller processes your request. Please note it can take up to two pay periods for the City Controller's office to process your deduction. The Club will do everything possible to ensure your payroll deduction gets processed sooner.

**1 Member Information** Please print in ink or type.

Member Name (First, Middle, Last):

Home Address:  Cell Phone: (  )

City:  State:  Zip:  Email Address\*:

City:  State:  Zip:  Email Address\*:

**2 Deduction Status Update** (select one)

Please select the reason for your change/update to your deduction.

I've changed departments within the City  Other

I've retired/ or will be retiring Retirement Date:  /  /

I am a Surviving Spouse Date of Birth:  /  /

**3 Payroll/ Pension Deduction Authorization**

**PAYROLL/ PENSION DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION**

In addition to payroll/pension deductions for group benefits, if any, you will receive all Club benefits for a payroll/pension deduction of only \$6.00 per month (active employees) or \$4.00 per month (retired employees). You authorize these monthly deductions by signing the Payroll Deduction Authorization form.

Member's Printed Name

Member's SSN  -  -

City Dept#  City Employee # (5 or 6 digits)  DWP Employee #

Employees Club of California  
 311 S. Spring St. Ste 1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013  
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**Must Select One**

- City Active
- Hiring Hall
- City Retiree
- DWP Active
- DWP Retiree
- Fire/Police Pension (Officers Only)

I hereby authorize the deduction from my salary or pension of amounts sufficient to cover premiums/ membership fees on any of my group benefits provided by the Employees Club of California. In the event any premiums should change due to age, increase in salary or benefits, or a general rate increase for the entire Association, I authorize you to make such change upon notification from the Employees Club of California and such deduction to remain in force until canceled by me in writing.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Code  Deduction

SLAM-1901.02

Member's Signature:  Date  /  /



Veronica and Juan Guerra receive their recognition documents from Fire Chief Kristin Crowley.

## Juan and Veronica, in Focus

FREELANCE FIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS, *ALIVE!* CONTRIBUTORS ARE HONORED.



Juan Guerra

**LAFD:** On Aug. 29, Fire Chief Kristin Crowley and senior staff honored the incredible freelance and department photographers, who help tell the department's story of heroism and the realities of firefighting to the general public.

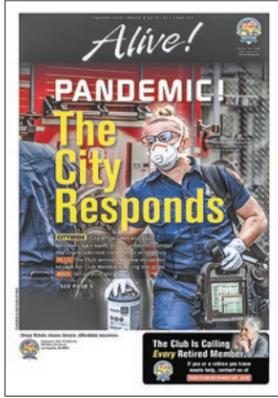
As part of that ceremony, the department honored Juan and Veronica Guerra, photographers who have contributed much to *Alive!*'s coverage of the LAFD and the City.

Juan and Veronica were courageous, talented and critical to several stories in *Alive!*, especially during the pandemic when access to outside activities was severely curtailed. In those early days of the pandemic, especially, they kept us going and in the middle of it all.

Deepest congratulations, Juan and Veronica, for this much-deserved honor, and well done to all LAFD photographers for your important service and dedication.

The United Firefighters of LA – UFLAC – co-hosted the event. ●

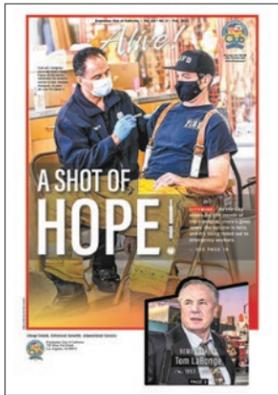
Below are some of the photographs taken by Juan and Veronica Guerra that graced past covers of *Alive!*



April 2020



May 2020



Feb. 2021

# Salute to Veterans

**Honor the Veteran in your life – family, friend or yourself – for Veterans Day!**

In our November issue, we plan to post your photos and messages of the person in your life who has served our country (in uniform, if possible), to honor them for their service. We'll publish in print and online for Veterans Day, Sat., Nov. 11, 2023.

**DEADLINES:**  
**In print and online:** Wed., Oct. 18  
**Online only:** Wed., Nov. 8

**Send in your images and messages at:**  
[alive.employeesclub.com/veterans/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/veterans/)

*Thank you for your service!*

# John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Association President

*See more Picture Perfect winners and contest rules.*

**This month's theme was: Autumn**

*"They say we don't have seasons here in Southern California, but they are obviously wrong. Just ask those ducks at Lake Balboa who are soaking up the last rays of sunshine during 'Golden Hour' on a recent early fall afternoon."*

**– Yves Didier, Airport Police**

**John's comment:** Do you think the ducks (foreground) notice the ducks (background) and wonder if they're related, or maybe check their Ancestry DNA for a connection, or ... okay Yves, just kidding around. I can do that on the kind of fall afternoon in your photo. Thanks for submitting!

*"Fall at June Lake in the Eastern Sierras."*

**– Brian Doherty, Retired, LADOT**

**John's comment:** Spectacular shot, Brian! Nature shows its greens, yellows and purples in preparation for the cold and snow. Best time of the year. Thanks!

*"Autumn seemed to come late to my neighborhood last year! This picture was taken in early December last year in my neighborhood. Better late than never!"*

**– Carlos Aranda, LADWP**

**John's comment:** One question for you, Carlos – were you dragging your feet and kicking the leaves up in the air as you walked? Whether yes or no, you made me want to! Beautiful colors, effective framing of the path into the distance, and an awesome, inviting image for our pondering ... thanks for submitting!

*"Here is my son, Andrew, picking apples. We visited New Hampshire in the fall back in 2010, and I took him to an apple orchard to pick apples. After all, fall is pie season!"*

**– Stephanie Burkhardt, LAPD/Commun.**

**John's comment:** We did this every fall growing up, Stephanie, and made apple pie, apple cider or apple sauce, or just munched them straight in. This wins for the strong memories! Thanks for freshening my past.

*"The bird would not stop, so it makes the picture very difficult to take. I am so happy that I did it."*

**– Virginia Lit**

**John's comment:** We are too, Virginia! Late summer and fall are peanut season, which I just learned by looking it up online. Clearly your bird knows that too, and judging by his eagerness, he's been waiting earlier in the year for this moment! Anyway, well done on holding still on a very active creature. Thanks!

The next photo contest theme:

## Things I'm Thankful for

**DEADLINE:**  
Oct. 16

Submit your best photos online here:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/)  
 Club Members only. Good luck!

**ENTER TO WIN**  
**\$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD**

Submit your best photos, and be in the running for a prize.

# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

## Venice, Italy



"Celebrating 18 years of marriage in Venice, Italy, by way of Denmark and Greece. Keeping up with life with no less than 15,000 steps each day for 14 days. #travelintolsons" – Kimberly Tolson, Airports (From November 2022)

## Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes,  
Retired, Harbor



## Letter From Italy, Pt. 3 Salerno, Amalfi and Capri



At the Amalfi Coast.

taurants. Due to its thriving seafood industry and being off-the-beaten-track, it remains the most traditional of the Amalfi Coast villages. Cetara's name is derived from the Latin word Cetara, an ancient method for trapping bluefin tuna, or cetari, meaning fishmongers of large fish. Its single cobblestone street is called Corso Garibaldi and runs gently uphill from the beach to the bus stop on Amalfi Drive, two kilometers away.

Arabian pirates settled the village, the Romans passed through, the Normans built the large watchtower (Torre di Cetara or Tower of Cetara) on the beach's eastern end, and the Turks ransacked and burned the village down. Today, its restaurants offer local specialties like tonno rosso (red tuna), and colatura di alici, or "anchovy drippings," a sauce that dates back to Roman times when a similar sauce called garum was enjoyed. Cetara restaurants put this sauce on spaghetti and various other dishes (even pizza!), and it is tasty.

Like most Amalfi Coast beaches, they are made of pebbles that are challenging to walk on. Bring beach sandals that you can wear into the water. – continued on Web Alive!

If you're considering visiting Capri or driving the Amalfi Coast this fall and do not want to spend an arm and a leg, think outside the box and make your base in the ancient port town of Salerno. It is not as big a tourist attraction as Positano, Ravello or Amalfi, but it makes up for it with better value accommodation, fewer tourists and easy access to other attractions in the area like Capri, Ischia, Napoli, Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius.

Salerno is connected to the rest of the country by the A2 and A3 Autostradas and A30 motorways. The main bus stop in Salerno for both CSTP and SITA buses is also the train station, which is connected to the high-speed railway network via the Milan-Salerno corridor, with trains to Naples and Pompeii taking around 40 minutes. From its ferry terminal, there is a regular service to all the small fishing villages along the Amalfi coast and the three islands (Capri, Ischia and Procida) in the Gulf of Naples. In three days, you'll have time to enjoy the old town's winding streets, take a ferry and bus ride along the beautiful Amalfi Coast, and visit Capri.

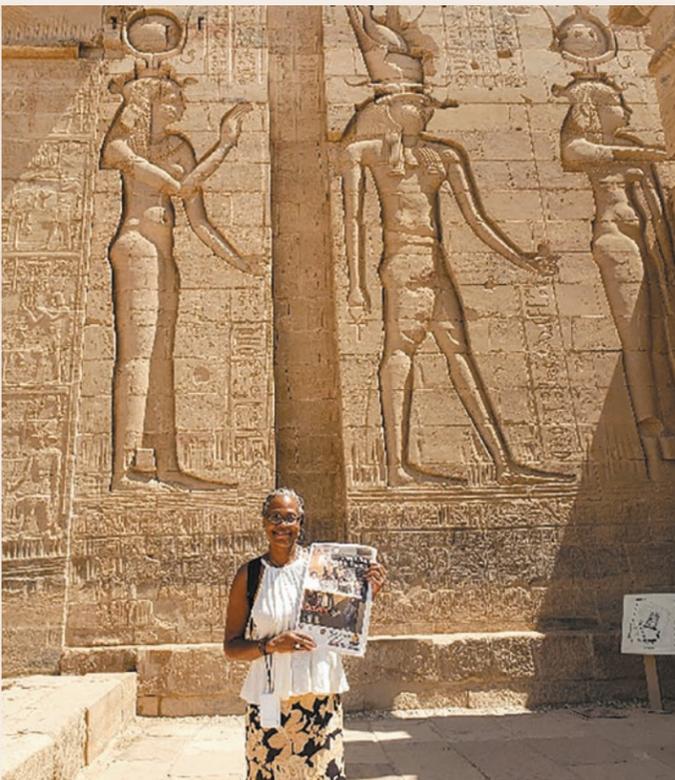
**DAY ONE:** Take the short leisurely ferry ride to Cetara, the fishing capital of the Amalfi Coast, known nationwide for its seafood res-



Alive! and the Italian flag in Salerno

— The adventures of Michael Barnes continue page 25

## Egypt



"August 12, 2023 – Aswan, Egypt, at the Philae Temple of the goddess Isis. I'm standing at the entrance to the temple. We were able to enter the innermost part of the temple reserved for the holy of the holies, where only kings and high priests were allowed. They presented their offerings of gold to perform purifications. The statue of Isis would have been housed here. You need to take a boat to get to the island where the temple is located." – Daphne Evangelista, Retired, LADWP



Send in a travel picture holding Alive!

- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding Alive!
- Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld](http://alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld) You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

## A Live Saver

Story and photos courtesy LAFD Board

### RYAN JENSEN SAVES LIFE OF A 9-YEAR-OLD BOY.

**LAFD:** On Sept. 5, the LAFD's Board of Fire Commissioners recognized Apparatus Operator Ryan Jensen for helping save the life of a nine-year-old boy during a structure fire in Sun Valley in March.

In the incident, the LAFD responded to a structure fire at an apartment building. The first fire company to arrive found heavy smoke showing from a four-story (three floors over parking) center-hallway-style apartment building. Firefighters prepared to make entry. Firefighter/Paramedics located two critical burn patients. (Six patients received treatment, including the hospital transport of the two burn victims.)

Flames began coming out the third floor window and were lapping up into the fourth floor unit as crews reached the fire. More than 80 firefighters, operating under the command of Assistant Chief Guy Tomlinson, fully extinguished the blaze in 33 minutes. As Light Force 78 arrived, A/O Jensen and his crew were assigned to establish additional ladders to the building. Jensen saw a nine-year-old on a fourth floor balcony, who had been separated from his family, and his escape route was cut off by flames. Jensen extended the aerial ladder to the balcony, and

then ascended the ladder himself to rescue the child from the balcony. The boy was reunited with his family shortly after being brought down the aerial ladder.

The LAFD Board of Fire Commissioners statement read: "In recognition of your bravery, competency, judgment and heroic courage while performing your duties as an Apparatus Operator on Light Force 78, you saved the life of a nine-year-old boy during an apartment fire. The Los Angeles City Fire Dept. commends you for your bravery and exceptional efforts in saving a citizen of the City of Los Angeles."

This is not the first time Ryan Jensen was honored by the Fire Commission. In August 2012, (then Firefighter) Jensen received a Medal of Merit relating to an incident where two victims were dragged from an electrified pool of water, following a traffic collision involving a sheared hydrant and wires down. The LAFD is

proud to recognize him again, 11 years later, as he continues a pattern of selfless service to the people of Los Angeles.

The Club congratulates Apparatus Operator Jensen for his heroism, and honors him for his service to the people of Los Angeles. ●



Apparatus Operator Ryan Jensen (holding a certificate) is honored by the LAFD Board of Fire Commissioners. In the photo are (from left) Capt. Il Raymond Robles, Firefighter III Robert Dubarry, Engineer Steven Romero, Apparatus Operator Ryan Jensen, Firefighter Derek Machen and Firefighter III Andrew Begg. All are stationed at FS 78.

Photo by Dearbhla McNulty, Club Social Media Manager



At the El Grito event.

## ¡Viva México!

CLUB CEO ROBERT LARIOS JOINS CITY'S CELEBRATION OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE.

**COUNCIL:** The City marked Mexican Independence Day Sept. 15 with an El Grito celebration downtown outside City Hall and in Grand Park.

El Grito marked the 213th anniversary of the Independence of Mexico, and the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month in LA. ●

**Witch Tickets**  
will you buy for Halloween at  
big savings from the Club?

Go to:  
**employeesclub.com**

## Larios In the City

By Robert Larios, Club President and CEO



Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.

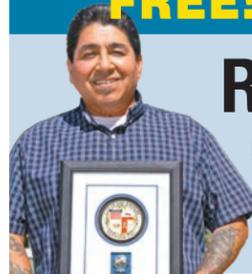


**Delia L. Hernandez**  
LACERS  
Retired after 30 years of service.  
(She retired in September 2023.)



**Schiry Monroe**  
LADWP  
Retired after 43 years of service.  
(She retired in May 2023.)

**FREE!\*** CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE



### Retiring soon?

Receive your own personalized Club Retirement Plaque, free! (Must be a Club Member for at least five consecutive years.)

\* a \$499 value!

Get started here:



Monica De La Torre and Police Chief Michel Moore.



## Downtime for DLT

MONICA DE LA TORRE RETIRES FROM LAPD DISPATCHERS AFTER 27 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Monica De La Torre as Joe Exotic from Tiger King, for Halloween 2021.



Monica De La Torre

**LAPD:** A reception was held Feb. 1 for PSR III Monica "DLT" De La Torre, who retired from LAPD Communications (911 Operators) after 27 years of City service.

"She has been a source of light to all she has worked with on our Dispatch floor," the department said. "To the 'Queen Taco' – your support, positivity, laughter and notorious Halloween costumes will be missed! Thank you for your service to the City of Los Angeles."

The Club congratulates and honors DLT for her years of dedication and service to the City! Enjoy your retirement! ●

A monthly photo from the Alive! archives looking back at the men and women whose hard work helped build a better LA. Thank you!

## Throwback Thumbs Up

**FROM DECEMBER 2012:**  
An LADOT crew helped clear the way for the Space Shuttle Endeavour to make its way through the streets of LA. The crew (from left): James Gonzalez, José Almaguer Delgado, Carl Mehrabians and Carlos Rodriguez.



As they enjoy their snow cones while baby Amelia enjoys her nap in her stroller are (from left) Alyssa and PII John Legaspi, 15 years of City service, Club Member; PII Casey, POA Secretary, Club Member; PIII Bolanos, 8 years, Club Member; Nora and John Legaspi, owners of Hapa Cup Shave Ice; Austin, son of PII John Legaspi; Club Members SLO James, 4 years, and PII William East, POA Treasurer, 6 years.

## BBQ at the Port

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club VP of Business Development  
Photos by Dylan Herrero

### PORT POLICE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY. CLUB CO-SPONSORS.

**HARBOR:** To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the LA Port Police Association hosted a barbecue June 17 at the Fort MacArthur Museum.

The event was held in partnership with the Port Police Baker to Vegas running team and Rec and Parks.

The Employees Club was a proud sponsor of the event.

Many Officers came with family and friends to enjoy the music, delicious barbecue, snow cones, a bounce house, games and prizes.

The Club thanks the Port Police Association board for inviting us, and Association Board Members Officer Angelo Cumpian (President and Club Member), Sgt. Derek Pittman, Officer Evelyn Casey, Officer William East, Sgt. Jane Britten, and Regina Grant, Port Police, for their assistance. ●



From left: Sgt. Aaron Ybarra, 16 years of City service, Club Member; PII William East, POA Treasurer, 6 years, Club Member; Mark Jurisic, Labor Relations Rep ILWU Local 13 and 15 years as Sheriff; PII Angelo Cumpian, POA President, 15 years, Club Member; and Manuel Jimenez, CEO, Black Knight Patrol.



From left: Kinley with PII Candice Candelaria, 22 years of City service, Club Member; and Shawna.



From left: AJ; Claudia and PIII Alex Castillo, 18 years of City service, Club Member; and Kayla.



From left: Max; Sgt. Frank Huang, 16 years of City service, Club Member; with Michelle and Madison.



From left: Club Members Capt. Kevin McCloskey, 22 years of City service, with Jessica Bautista, Management Analyst, 28 years, and Christine Pina, Management Assistant, 18 years.



Club Members PIII Bolanos, 8 years of City service, with Sr. Lead Officer James, 4 years.



From left: Club Members PII Akserelian, 16 years of City service; PIII Moua, 17 years.



From left: PII Angelo Cumpian, POA President, 15 years of City service, Club Member; Regina Grant, Management Analyst, 43 years, Club Member; and Deputy Chief Randy Allen.



Deputy Mayor Randall Winston (front, center) and the executives and crews of StreetsLA that helped clear the way after Tropical Storm Hilary.

Photos courtesy StreetsLA

## Thanks for the Cleanup

### MAYOR'S OFFICE THANKS STREETSLA FOR ITS WORK AFTER TROPICAL STORM HILARY.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS:** On Aug. 24, the Mayor's Office said thanks for helping to clean up the mess!

Dep. Mayor Randall Winston stopped by the North Hollywood StreetsLA Yard to thank personally the Maintenance and Urban Forestry crews for their response to the damage caused by Tropical Storm Hilary. The once-mighty hurricane blew through Aug. 20 and caused minor damage.

Here are some photos of the StreetsLA crew taking care of business the day after the storm came through.

Thanks to all! ●



StreetsLA Executive Director and General Manager Keith Mozee thanks his crews.



Deputy Mayor Randall Winston thanks the StreetsLA crews.

### AFTER THE STORM

StreetsLA's crews and Urban Forestry Division took care to manage the damage caused by Tropical Storm Hilary.



**Arlene Herrero**  
Vice President of Business Development

## Arlene on the Scene

Alive! follows the Club's Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development, as she meets Club Members.

AUG. 23

### LA County Internal Services Department

On Aug. 23, Arlene and #ClubMobile visited LA County Internal Services Dept.'s new employees event, and welcomed new and existing Club Members!



Arlene with David Bell.



From left: Frank Garcia, Oscar Ruiz and Angel Jacobo.

# CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the Employees Club of California  
- OCTOBER 2023



**WINNERS: LADWP**

The winning team from the LADWP is flanked by Club Sports Commissioner Noelle Kauffman (left) and Club CEO Robert Larios (right).

## Softball Is Back!



### CLUB SPONSORS FIRST SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT. BIG TIME FUN!

The Labor Day holiday saw six City teams compete in a family softball tournament. For the first time, the Club sponsored it.

The LADWP team won the seven-team tournament. Other teams included groups from LADOT and Animal Services. The tournament was held at the Eagle Rock Rec Center.

"Club Sports is back!" said Club Sports Commissioner Noelle Kauffman. "It was awesome to see so many City employees with their families having fun."

"We were thrilled to sponsor the tournament because it's a great way for the Club to honor City employees for their service and dedication every day."

The #ClubMobile team, including the Incredible Club Truck, was on hand with City gear, gifts and loads of important insurance information. (More info on the Incredible Club Truck coming soon!)

Watch this space – and of course follow the Club on Instagram, TwitterX and Facebook – for news on upcoming tournaments and activities. ●

Jane Hauptman, Manager of Environmental Planning and Assessment, LADWP (center), is the manager of the LADWP team that won the tournament. She's flanked by Club Sports Commissioner Noelle Kauffman and Club CEO Robert Larios.



Eagle Rock Rec Center, the site of the softball tournament.



#ClubMobile was on site and popular. Assisting were the Club's Dailia Vielma, Club Counselor (at the blue table) and Club CEO Robert Larios.



From left: Yanina Mejia, Sr. Administrative Clerk, and Daisy Mejia, Management Analyst, LADWP.



Club Board Member Carlos Rodriguez, Transportation Engineering Associate II (left) with Club CEO Robert Larios.



From left: Matthew Cordero, Jonathan Rodarte, Commercial Field Rep, LADWP.



From left: Rene Sanabria, Sr. Traffic Supervisor; and Anthony Cordova, LADOT.

## Los Angeles Airport Police **NOW HIRING** Entry Level & Lateral Police Officers

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**Scary Savings**  
are yours when you buy your **Halloween tickets** through the Club!

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**employeesclub.com**



**The Cheapest Movie tickets in the state are at the Club!**

Photos by Summy Lam, Rebecca DeBolt and Dearbhla McNulty of the Club; and courtesy Cultural Affairs

CULTURAL AFFAIRS/PUBLIC WORKS

# A New Vision

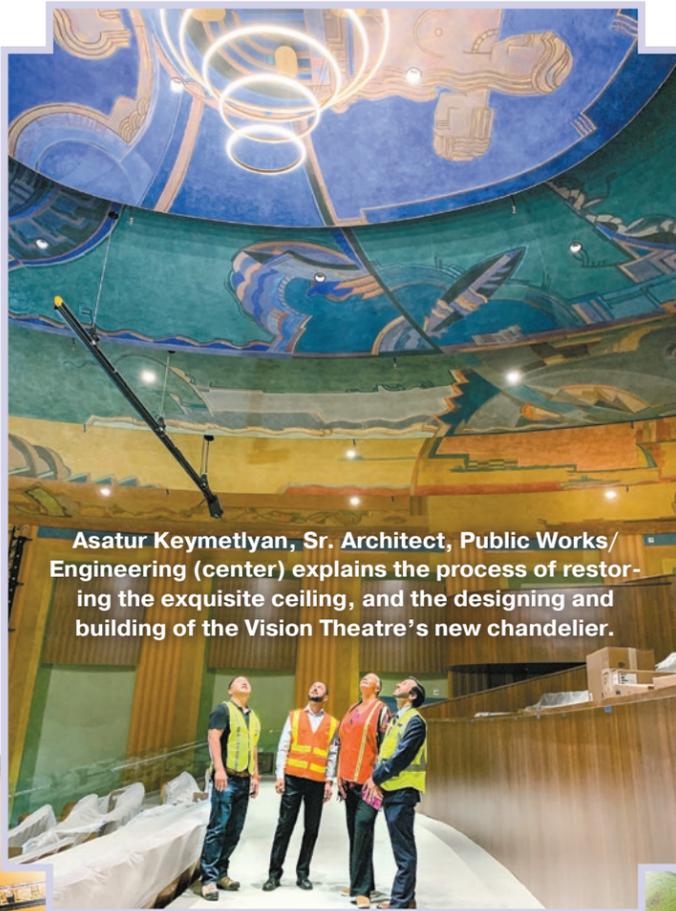
The curtain will rise in 2025 on the Vision Theatre restoration, bringing a new beacon of light to Leimert Park.

A vision of hope, art and life is nearing completion in South LA's Leimert Park – the impressively restored Vision Theatre Performing Arts Center. It's a project of Cultural Affairs, Public Works/Engineering, many other City departments, and countless community activists who have long dreamed of reopening it.

After a long and multi-phase restoration, the majestic and impressive Art Deco landmark Vision Theatre Performing Arts Center is set for its grand reopening in 2025.

It's one of the biggest projects the two lead departments are working on.

A large neighborhood movie palace, this 1931 Spanish-style Art-Deco gem has retained its importance to the community for more than 80 years since it first opened as the Leimert Theatre in 1931. It became a neighborhood movie Theatre soon after



Asatur Keymetlyan, Sr. Architect, Public Works/Engineering (center) explains the process of restoring the exquisite ceiling, and the designing and building of the Vision Theatre's new chandelier.

opening and was operated by Fox West Coast Theatres. Designed in a classic Southern California streamlined Spanish Colonial style, the tall steel frame on top of the lower stucco-clad tower originally had the Theatre's name on it, and is a landmark for the area.

The Vision Theatre completed a \$11 million renovation in 2011, and final construction on phases II, III and IV began in March 2018 to start historical restoration of the auditorium, reconfigure seating within the existing walls, add a lounge area under the seating, enlarge the stage, add a fly loft with office spaces, and build lower level dressing rooms, green rooms, a trap room, technical staff office space, and an orchestra pit. Phase V is set to begin this fall, leading to opening the curtain for good in 2025. ●



On stage at the nearing-completion Vision Theatre in South LA are (from left) Daniel Tarica, General Manager, Cultural Affairs; Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, Club Member; and Asatur Keymetlyan, Sr. Architect, Public Works/Engineering.

The *Alive!* Interview

# 'A beacon in Leimert Park'

On June 13, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed principal managers of the massive, multi-phase Dept. of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Vision Theatre Restoration Project: Asatur Keymetlyan, Sr. Architect, Public Works/Engineering's Architectural Division, 16 years of City service; and Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, 10 years. Yvonne is also a Club Member. Cultural Affairs General Manager Daniel Tarica, 21 years of City service, contributed to this interview as well.



Robert Larios

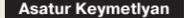
**Asatur, Yvonne and Daniel, thank you for talking to us about this incredible joint project between Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Engineering, and many other City departments. But before we talk about that, let's start with this – how did you get to your current position with the City?**

**Daniel Tarica:** I'm grateful for the many different experiences and opportunities I have had working for the City that prepared me for the work I am doing today with Cultural Affairs. I've worked for several different elected officials: serving as a field deputy for a City Councilmember; then serving as a Legislative Director for the President Pro Tem of the City Council; and serving as Deputy Controller for two different Controllers. Additionally, I worked for the City Administrative Officer as a budget analyst as well as in municipal finance, providing the education and training to prepare me for my work at Cultural Affairs, first as Assistant General Manager and now as General Manager.

**Asatur Keymetlyan:** Very simple for me: Right after my undergraduate degree at Woodbury University, I was offered a job with the City. I started with the architectural division 16 years ago. I was an Architectural Associate I, and just basically I grew through the ranks.



Daniel Tarica



Asatur Keymetlyan

**Yvonne Farrow:** The seed for public service was first planted when I volunteered as Block Captain for my Neighborhood Watch while pursuing a professional career in the performing arts. Formerly a concert dancer and model, I was an award winning union actress, filmmaker and choralographer – I choreographed for choirs. I was also co-partner in the production company Twinbiz (twins-in-the-business), writing, directing and producing original projects for stage, television and film, with an emphasis on social justice. I was soon vetted and selected as an Organizing Fellow in President Barack Obama's re-election campaign, and ran the South LA GOTV campaign office. I was then hired as Field Organizer running the South LA office of Eric Garcetti for Mayor (which he dubbed the number-one office of his campaign). From there I joined the Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, where I served as Constituent Service Representative. I then transferred to Cultural Affairs and became a civil servant in the position of Arts Associate. I was promoted to Arts Manager II, where I now serve as Project Manager overseeing the Vision Theatre from its renovation through its reopening.

**What a unique, interesting path.**

**Yvonne:** Yes, I've come full circle. It's been very exciting.

**Asatur and Yvonne, have either of you worked on a theater project before?**

**Asatur:** This will be my first theater project, managing the construction of a theater.

**Yvonne:** This is my first time being on this side of the stage, not as a director, producer or artist.

Administration (BCA), overseeing contracting and payments, and General Services.

**This is probably a good time to talk about the phases of construction.**

**Asatur:** The project was designed as one complete project, but then due to funding shortfalls, a decision was made to split this into multiple phases.

**Yvonne:** Phase 1 began in 2011 and was completed in 2013. We renovated and restored the front portico, lobbies, upstairs offices, classroom and restrooms. Once funds were raised to complete the audience chamber, renovations resumed in 2018.



Yvonne Farrow, Cultural Affairs, describes the Vision Theatre's under-restoration entrance lobby.

## The Vision Theatre

**In general terms, please describe the Vision Theatre Project, what it is and the timeline from beginning to the expected completion.**

**Daniel:** DCA's Vision Theatre, once an Art Deco movie palace sporting a blend of Streamline Moderne and Plateresque styles, was built in 1931. It's nestled within the heart of Leimert Park as a beacon of inspiration and resilience for the communities it serves. The Leimert Park Cinema, or Leimert Park Theatre, screened movie classics until its doors closed in 1963. In 1977 it became a Jehovah's Witness Chapel known as the Watchtower.

**Yvonne:** Then in 1990, actress Marla Gibbs bought the property and renamed it the Vision Theatre and emboldened the name vertically along its majestic spire. However, due to civil unrest and economic recession, Marla's dream of an 850-seat performing arts Theatre and education facility fell on hard times. In 1997 the City of Los Angeles acquired the property with the goal of transforming the historic Theatre into a state-of-the-art, world-class performing arts center, thereby sustaining and advancing Leimert Park Village as the mecca of Black arts, culture, and entertainment in Los Angeles.

**Daniel:** Once the renovation project was approved, Cultural Affairs reached out to the Board of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering to assist in the Theatre's design, construction and renovation. City partners also include the Bureau of Contract



Asatur Keymetlyan, Public Works/Bureau of Engineering explains these that the gold-leaf architectural details at each side of the stage are original and have been restored.

**Asatur:** The City is in the process of completing Phases 2 through 4. These phases included restoration of the historic ceiling mural; renovation of the audience chamber; construction of a formidable stage with a fly loft, a loading dock, a lounge; event space, production offices, storage space, dressing rooms, a greenroom, and artist and patron amenities; as well as reconstruction of the iconic neon marquee and parking lot sign. We're nearing the completion of Phase 4. We're hoping by the end of this summer, we'll have these phases completed. Now, we have a fifth phase. The future Phase 5 will include miscellaneous items that were not completed in Phase 4. We're aiming to start that scope at the end of the summer and be completed by July 2024. We can't open the theater until Phase 5 is finished to ensure that certain infrastructure for the Theatre is operational, such as finishing the parking lot and some other things that were not included in the initial phases.

**Yvonne:** We'd like to have the power lines placed underground so that "bus and truck" tours can turn around safely and then back up to the loading dock and unload, that emergency vehicles can have untethered access, and supply trucks can get through, that kind of thing.

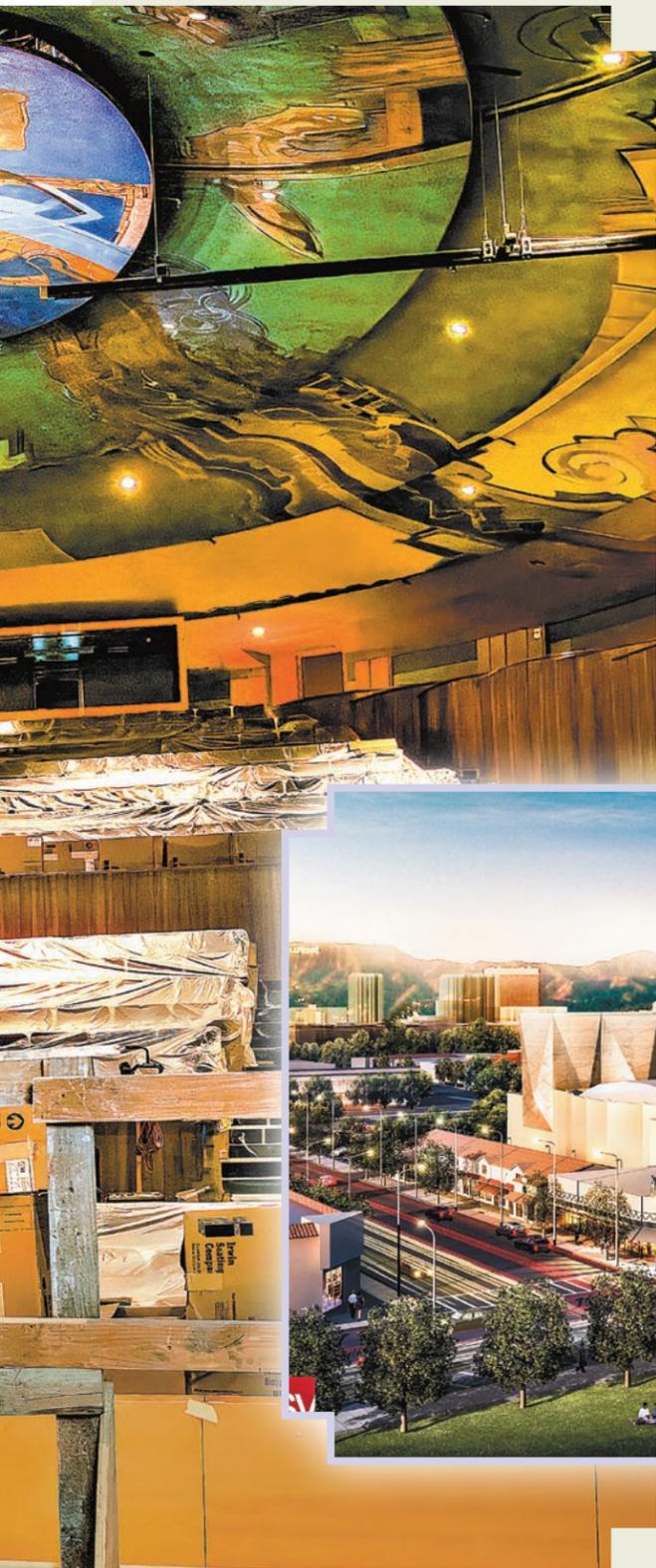
**Asatur:** We're in conversation with the Department of Water and Power now. That's also another major undertaking that requires additional funds, and we're working on those.

**Has the building been registered historically?**

**Daniel:** While the Vision Theatre is not a registered Historic-Cultural Monument, there are elements of the building that have been deemed "historic." For example, the renovation of the audience chamber included the demolition of a non-historical stage, which now features an ample fly loft, backstage area, trap door, and hydraulic orchestra pit lift which, when raised, extends the apron of the stage.

**How much has the City invested so far?**

**Daniel:** To date, the City has invested \$37.3 million in infrastructure upgrades, interior improvements, preservation,



An architectural rendering of the exterior of the Vision Theatre and its place in Leimert Park.

The Alive! Interview

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

restoration and renovation of the facility. Once the capital infrastructure is completed, we'll embark on Phase 5, which will include installation of top-of-the-line audiovisual and lighting equipment, a redesign of the parking lot to accommodate large theatrical and emergency vehicles, the placement of power poles underground (to eliminate blight), as well as other necessary upgrades to the interior.

**Yvonne:** The intended date for completion of the renovation is 2024. We anticipate a grand re-opening celebration with Cultural Affairs' new partner/operator in the 2025 winter/spring season, also the Vision Theatre's 94th birthday. Once completed, the Vision Theatre will once again serve as a significant cultural anchor and artistic hub for the local community, Los Angeles at-large, and as a major national and international theatrical destination.

**Are you working with theater design consultants?**

**Asatur:** Back in 2004, we enlisted one of our architectural design consultants, FSY Architects, to be the architect of record for the project. They've been with us on this journey for a long time. And they have recruited a theatrical consultant and many other consultants to get this project completed.

**Beyond the Walls**

**Why did the City buy this Theatre? What does it mean to the Leimert Park area and the citizens of South LA?**

**Daniel:** The City is making this investment in the Vision Theatre for it to be a community resource and symbol of community and Citywide pride. It will grow opportunities for Leimert Park and the larger Los Angeles communities to engage through the programming of diverse world-class Theatre, music, dance, film, and educational events, along with offering a variety of cultural forums.

**Yvonne:** It means the world. Have you heard the saying, "a rising tide lifts all boats?" When the Vision Theatre reopens, our hope is that it will be an anchor and catalyst for the economic development and revitalization of Leimert Park, the surrounding community, and the City of Los Angeles; that the Theatre will be a home for deep cultural connection; a place of joyful community engagement; that it will serve as a center for community celebration and commemoration; that it will reaffirm and reestablish the theater as the hub of cultural activity for the African-American experience and cultural expressions of the diaspora.

The Vision Theatre will host educational opportunities for youths in performance and stagecraft, providing job training, as well as provide an affordable world-class space for local artists and arts organizations to shine. Similar to the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, South LA will have its own Pantages or Wiltern Theatre, right here in Leimert Park Village. We also hope to hire local vendors in the space. There is a lot of hope for this place.

**And not just local productions, but for touring shows, too.**

**Yvonne:** Oh my goodness, yes. This is first and foremost a rental facility. We want to attract small and large national tours, concerts, and conventions.

**That will require a facility that can handle the best shows out there.**

**Asatur:** Yes. We're building to accommodate groups and shows of all sizes. We've recently redesigned what the original plans called for in terms of technology. As you can imagine, a design from 2004 to 2007 called for equipment that is now outdated. As we're nearing completion, Cultural Affairs wanted to make sure that this theater is state-of-the-art and can attract high-level performers. To do that, you need to have the best of the best equipment. We made sure to revise the original design and equipment to bring it up to current standards. We're working with a design consultant to install one of the number one sound and lighting equipment setups in the industry currently. Our intention is to make this a world class performance center.

**Yvonne:** I also feel that this will be a tourist destination, that people will want to come through, not just for shows, but also to see it. The Vision Theatre is a living museum, and people will want to come and visit it.

**Asatur:** The existing audience chamber has been redesigned, reconstructed and restored when it comes to the walls and the ceiling. It's going to have more than 700 seats. For the first three rows, we were able to restore and reuse the existing original seats from the Theatre. The remaining seats will be replicas of the original seats.

**Yvonne:** The proscenium arch around the stage is the exact color it was in 1931, a deep magenta with gold folds; it's gorgeous. The Heisenburge ceiling was restored to its former glory and is just breathtaking. Below it, curves of boxed seats kiss the walls, creating the balcony. FSY designed a new chandelier that was recently featured in the LA Times.

**What other departments are working on this project?**

**Asatur:** I'm with the Architectural Division, so I oversee design consultants on managing the project from the construction portion of the project. I have my colleagues from the Construction Management Division working with me managing contractors. We also have Contract Administration involvement because this is a Public Works building project, and it's gone through a bidding process. We're also working with Council District 10.

**Yvonne:** General Services is very involved.

**Asatur:** Yes, as well as LADOT for a portion of the parking lot.

**Yvonne:** And LADWP.

**Asatur:** Of course, for power requirements and inspection. The Housing Dept. is providing much of our funding. It's important to note that there are a couple of other big projects that are happening adjacent to our project. One of them is the Degnan Street Improvement Project, involving Street Services and a couple of other departments. There is constant coordination with our project.

**Challenges**

**There have to be some unique challenges in managing this project.**

**Daniel:** While we continue to make good progress on the construction, we have faced several challenges along the way. They include, first, the long gap in the renovation process, especially the time between the first phase and the second set of phases due to securing funding. Once funding was secured, a global pandemic hit and delayed the project due to a shortage of resources and supplies.

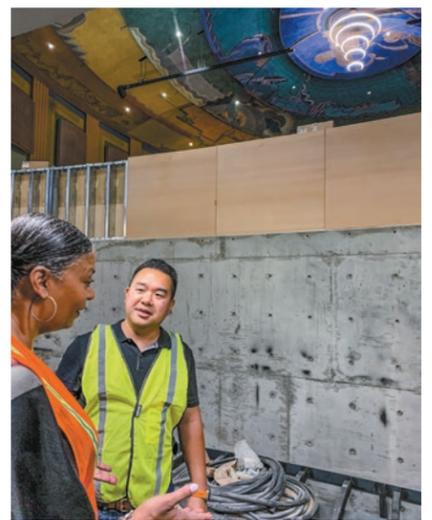
Second, the City's search for a well-qualified business and nonprofit with proven experience in venue management, festival production, and performing arts producing and curation – with an emphasis on technical stagecraft, concert booking/contracting/presenting, arts/venue management, community engagement/youth development, arts education, and facilities maintenance has been a unique challenge. In our search, Cultural Affairs asked for proposers with proven experience in strong financial management, events marketing, ticketing, artist services, audience services, security, scheduling, parking, technical direction, and customer service. In addition, we asked for proven experience in: the creation of a wide range of public



Yvonne Farrow, Cultural Affairs, in one of the new chorus dressing room suites underneath the stage.



Yvonne Farrow, Cultural Affairs, explains to the Club's Summy Lam that the first three rows of seats have been restored from the originals; the rest of the audience seats are reproductions.



Yvonne Farrow, Cultural Affairs, explains to the Club's Summy Lam about the new orchestra pit, which can be lifted hydraulically to extend the front of the stage.

programs that support community and youth performance opportunities; job training and creation; and creative entrepreneurship with an emphasis on the performing arts, stagecraft, and production.

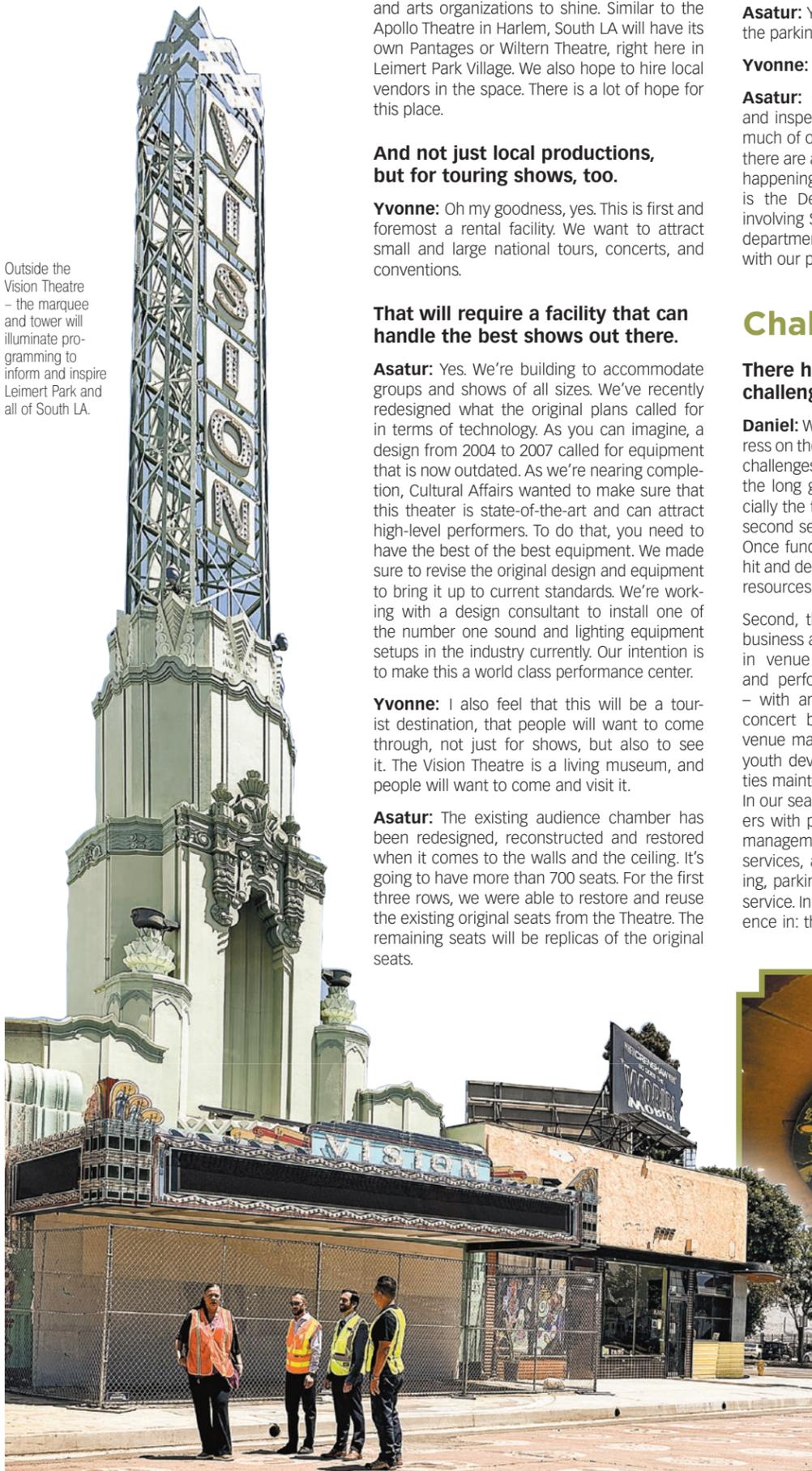
We look forward to moving ahead with a qualified venue partner operator/programmer in the coming months and hosting the grand reopening of the Vision Theatre in 2025.

**We'll look forward to that!**

**Asatur:** We can spend the entire day talking about challenges!

**Yvonne:** When I first came on board in 2017, the designs were not for a world-class theater. My former supervisor noticed that the plans were more suited for a high school auditorium, not to attract top-notch companies like the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, or musicals like The Lion King, or stage plays or even concerts. There was a lot of work to do. As the years went by, plans had to be upgraded, upgraded, and then upgraded again. Cultural Affairs really wants to deliver the best product to the community and to the City that we can.

— CONTINUES PAGE 15



Outside the Vision Theatre – the marquee and tower will illuminate programming to inform and inspire Leimert Park and all of South LA.



Installation of the newly designed and constructed chandelier (archive photo).

**The *Alive!* Interview**

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

**Asatur:** As you start remodeling any type of existing building, you find a lot of surprises. It's very typical. Imagine trying to phase this project because of funding issues; you have to split it up into four phases. As a project manager, I have a challenge in reporting to a number of funding sources. The Housing Dept. is providing a majority of the funding for the current phase of the project through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The historic nature of the project also adds a layer by having a historic preservation consultant overseeing every element of this project. As we reached the audience chamber, which, in my opinion is the most iconic portion of the interior of the theater, we encountered a lot of delays dealing with the great mural on the ceiling. Restoration work was tedious, but the outcome is very beautiful.

We also have been very engaged with our neighbors, and we work closely with them. At the end of the day, they all appreciate what we're doing for the community, for Leimert Park, and what value we're adding to their own properties.

**Yvonne:** This is where I come in. As Cultural Affairs' Project Manager, I work closely with our neighbors and my fellow Project Manager, of course; liaison with CD 10, the City Attorney, the contractor, General Services, Community Investment for Families Dept., and Housing's CDBG. I attend many community meetings making sure they are informed. I also oversee the process working with our new partner/operator from proposal to contract.

There was one other challenge that I wanted to add – COVID. Boy, did that throw a wrench in an already overly extended timeline. It was very, very difficult.

**The Essence of Cultural Affairs**

**How does this fit into the mission of Cultural Affairs?**

**Daniel:** As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, Cultural Affairs promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike. This Vision Theatre project is a perfect match.

**Stories**

**Is this the biggest project you've worked on?**

**Yvonne:** Regarding bricks and mortar, it's the biggest and the first for me. I am grateful for the many years of experience I have as a producing artist and the transferable skills I brought with me to the job. My knowledge is extensive because I have been on the stage and

I can answer the questions raised. I can speak for the artists who will perform there. I know what producers will want from programmers. I know what directors will ask of technical directors. I am in a unique position also because I know how the City works from having served in the Mayor's Office as a Constituent Service Representative. I give thanks every day for my background, life experience, and the institutional knowledge gained working in the trenches of City government.

**Asatur:** I oversee a group of project managers and designers on something like 40 projects. But this is the one project that I've kept for myself. I've stayed on it as the lead project manager because I want to see it through. This is the most challenging and my biggest project currently. I'm sure it's going to be the most rewarding once it's completed. I don't want to hand it over to anybody else. I love working with Cultural Affairs. Yvonne is one of my most favorite people, so I don't want to let her down.

**Yvonne:** Likewise, I've learned so much from you, Asatur.

**Tell us a couple of stories from doing this project.**

**Yvonne:** Okay, great! I have a few!

To begin construction on the auditorium we had to demolish the back wall of the stage. Facing the parking lot was a mural that featured Marla Gibbs (the first African American to invest her wealth in this community), drummer Billy Higgins, poet Kamau Daaood, composer/pianist Horace Tapscott, and other celebrities of the day. Before tearing down the wall we honored the muralist, Michael Massenburg; Marla; the stakeholders and family members of those depicted in the mural. It was very touching.

Another great moment at the onset was the beam signing. All of the City partners came out to sign this massive steel beam and watch it being raised and placed high on top of the building, it was just so exciting. My name is on that building!

During construction I heard the contractor talking about putting in a dance floor. I thought, isn't it a little too soon for that, it's going to get ruined. I asked, "Why are you putting in the dance floor now? Isn't that a waste of money?" Everyone laughed! "No, Yvonne! It's not a real dance floor! We're going to build scaffolding to restore the ceiling. The dance floor is what the artisans will work on while restoring the ceiling!" I have two bad knees from my career as a dancer, plus arthritis, but I pulled myself up there just to touch that ceiling! I have a picture to prove it!

At one point we gave away memorabilia from the Vision Theatre as keepsakes such as air vents that could be melted down for art pieces, theater seats for houses needing seating, or seats that could be used as set pieces, for example. One woman asked if she could have an armrest. It reminded her of the many dates she went on at the cinema as a teenager. We gave away a lot of armrests! So many of the community members shared their stories. It was incredible.

We also had a competition to select a design for the Vision Theatre Legacy

Curtain – local artists came up with beautiful designs, and the community voted. The design they chose is of stunning African masks called "Sankofa," which loosely means "to go back and get it" or "to remember our history, to reclaim it." The Legacy Curtain will debut at the grand re-opening.

**Asatur:** That Sankofa passage is one of my favorites. The theme that Yvonne was referring to for the legacy curtain is also incorporated throughout the fencing of the Vision Theatre parking lot. It was new to me that I had to learn. I wasn't familiar with the different cultures, so that was very exciting and interesting to me.

Marla Gibbs also visited the site on another occasion, which was very exciting, but the dance floor is probably one of my favorites. Seeing that scaffolding go up with its magnitude...and actually climbing up and touching the ceiling and seeing the detailed work that the artists have done on the ceiling and the restoration process with its gold accents, it was incredible. The ceiling is about 40 feet high from the ground. You can't understand the magnitude of it until you get close to it. I don't think anybody else will ever get the opportunity to get up close to the ceiling as we did, Yvonne, and see the detailed plaster work done originally in the 1920s.

We had a little bit of a challenge with the chandelier that's supposed to hang from the center of the ceiling. It's an important piece of the theater, but we were worried how it would impact the artwork, the mural, and the great work by our design consultants. They came up with a very elegant design for the chandelier, which is very beautifully done, and it's incorporated very tastefully within the space so it does not take away from the mural directly above it. That's got to be one of my most favorite parts of the project.

**Yvonne:** It's futuristic and it's gorgeous.

**Passion**

**What do you love about what you do?**

**Asatur:** I'll go first, if you don't mind. My answer is very simple. For a brief time, I worked in the private sector. The difference between working for the City is that I'm not designing for an individual client, family, or corporation. I'm designing for millions and millions of people. I've done Rec and Parks projects where I was able to take my... two-year-old daughter to the park and she enjoyed playing in the park that I took part in designing. Making a difference in people's lives for generations, that makes a big difference for me.

Before this interview I came from a Sanitation yard, a clean water conveyance facility in North Hollywood, which I designed. The client [Sanitation] is very grateful. It's going to be in operation for the next five decades. It makes a difference in many people's lives. That justifies me working for the City versus maybe having my own practice.

**We did a story on that conveyance project a few months ago. Congratulations!**

**Asatur:** I appreciate it. Thank you.

We throw around the word "iconic" a lot, but, in my opinion, this facility is really going to be iconic for Leimert Park. We didn't talk about one of the most elegant features of the facility – the marquee and the Vision Theatre Tower in front of the Theatre. It's going to be the beacon of light, and mark the location. It's going to attract a lot of people. I learned a lot about African-American culture while being on this project. And I believe this will give many other... people an opportunity to learn about this culture, too.

**Daniel:** Every day, through my work at the Dept. of Cultural Affairs, I get to work with talented and creative professionals who are all serving our common mission and goals of providing essential arts and cultural programming to the residents and visitors of the City of Los Angeles. While the work is not easy, we see the rewards every day through our impact on the people that we serve at our art centers, theaters, historic sites, galleries, as well as through grantmaking, public art, and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research.

**Yvonne:** I love being of service. This community has been waiting for so long. They've been so patient. My having the gift of serving this community in this way has been kind of like being a surrogate mother; it has been hard work, but joyful work. Everyone says I'm going to be crying when it opens, and I will. The invisible will be made visible. The baby will be born.

The Vision Theatre will serve the community and the City as a beacon; it will glow like a gemstone. It will be sheathed in light signifying a safe haven for the performing arts (dance, Theatre, music and film). Having once been a

— The *Alive!* Interview continues page 25



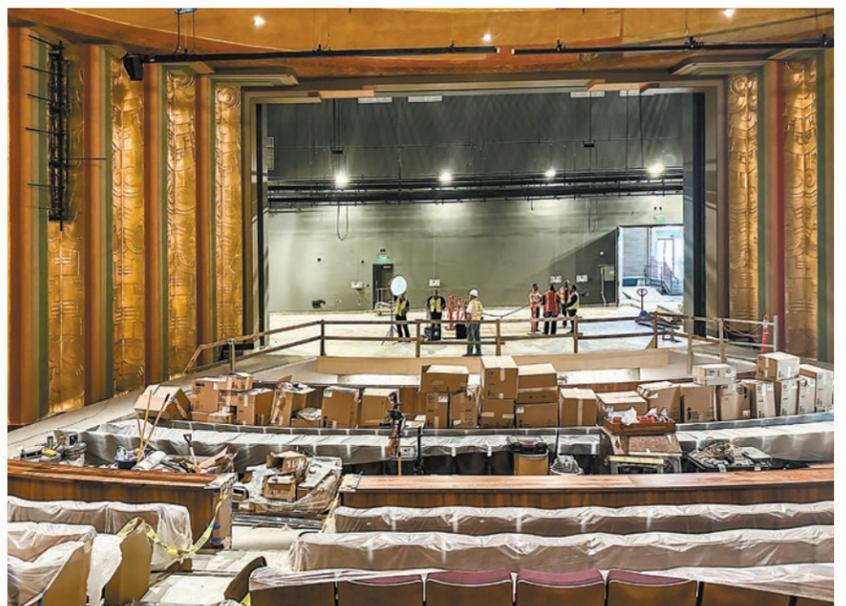
The onsite Inspector for the Vision Theatre project is Jon Santiago, Construction Inspector, Public Works/Bureau of Contract Administration, 16 years of City service.



A ceremony was held to honor actress Marla Gibbs, a previous owner of the Vision Theatre building. Reconstruction most likely would not have been possible without her caretaking of the building.



A rendering of the completed interior of the Vision Theatre.



The stage nearing completion, and the newly constructed fly loft above, as seen from the audience area.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired  
Club Members

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)**



Ruth B. Perry

Ruth B. Perry, President  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086  
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717  
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org  
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org

**2023 Executive Board of Directors**

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary*

**RLACEI DIRECTORS**

**Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension**

- Beverly Anderson, *Director* Ext. 702
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer* Ext. 718
- Mark Blunk, *Audit Chair* Ext. 704
- Beverly J. Clark, *Publicity Director* Ext. 716
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary* Ext. 705
- Tom Moutes, *Director* Ext. 710
- Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, *Director* Ext. 719
- Ruth B. Perry, *President* Ext. 717
- Ann Seales, *Membership Director* Ext. 706
- Elizabeth Torres, *Entertainment Director* Ext. 703
- Leonard Torres, *Director* Ext. 707

**RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:**

**(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0**

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

**RLACEI WEBSITE**

Visit the RLACEI website [www.RLACEI.org](http://www.RLACEI.org) to find the latest news.  
Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.  
EMAIL: [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org)

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

**Change of Address?**

Please notify Ann Seales, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 706 or [Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org](mailto:Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org) for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFCU as applicable.



Beverly J. Clark

**Send in your Interesting News Contributions!**

Contact: **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director  
Email: [Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org](mailto:Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org)  
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

**RETIREE EVENTS**

**Dec. 14 Holiday Party**  
Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles  
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE:**

Call: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701  
Or email: [contact@rlacei.org](mailto:contact@rlacei.org)

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.

## RLACEI 2023 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023  
11:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

### FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM

### 3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

### LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

**Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!**

RSVP to (800) 678-4145  
Ext 701

Please RSVP no later than  
December 3, 2023.



**RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.**

No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations.

To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706.

**RLACEI 2023 Holiday Party Reservation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ (Limit 2)

Email to [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org) or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

**\*\*Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.\*\***

**RETIREES UPDATE**

by Tom Moutes, *RLACEI Director* • [Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org](mailto:Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org)



Tom Moutes

**Choosing a LACERS Candidate to Vote For**

In my June 2023 article, I laid out my rationale why members should vote in elections for our active (still working) and Retired LACERS board representatives. This article will cover some items for you to consider if you receive a ballot and have no idea for whom you should cast your ballot.

**Have They Overseen a Complex, Multipart Operation?**

LACERS is a complex, multipart operation consisting of many units, such as investments, healthcare, systems, accounting, various types of retirement benefits, administrative, audit, and personnel, among others. If someone has overseen a complex, multipart operation in the past, they will understand how to monitor appropriately the various units and not be overwhelmed by the vastness of the operations or fixate on just one or two parts, to the exclusion of the other units. It's important that our LACERS

board members have the tools to oversee the entire operation.

**Have They Ever Been a Supervisor?**

While the LACERS board technically supervises only the General Manager, it is important for board members to know how to supervise, and it is even better if they have supervised a large group of employees. Why is this the case? Ideally, board members should come in with an understanding of all the principles of supervision so that they can be better aware of personnel dynamics they observe in the organization. Additionally, a board member or the full board may be requested to hear a personnel matter. They will be much more capable of doing this if they have previous experience.

**Does Their Experience Allow Them to Understand the Difference Between Policy and Operations?**

Board members exist to decide policy issues. The day-to-day operations of LACERS are the purview of the General Manager. If board members don't under-

stand the difference between policy and operations, they may well become overly involved in operations, which is a waste of time, and fail to get more fully involved in the policy aspect of the department, to the detriment of members.

**Conclusion**

As covered in my June 2023 article, it's really important that you vote in the LACERS board elections. Only 5.47 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in the last election! The mayor selects four of the seven LACERS board members. If you want to help ensure the LACERS board has a majority of good members, you need to vote to make sure the elected representatives are good members!

Some eligible members may not vote because they don't know the candidates and don't know how to select whom they should vote for. I hope the suggestions in this article will help you make informed choices in future LACERS elections.

The only board members we get to have a say in are the elected board members – so we have to vote! ●



Photos courtesy RLACEI and the Club



## Summer Picnic Fun!

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

### Retirees Association hosts annual summer picnic.

More than 168 Retirees attended the annual RLACEI summer picnic, held Sept. 14 at the Friendship Auditorium. It was a beautiful day to come out, enjoy the weather and mingle with friends.

How exciting to see the number of attendees increase each year! It means Retirees are enjoying the gatherings, and of course, board members love to see everyone having a good time. It is important for Retirees to have opportunities to socialize and stay active, and the RLACEI picnic was a great way to do that. What a pleasure to have our Retirees coming together, having fun, and staying connected.

RLACEI's goal is to have fun, win some prizes, reminisce and get the latest updates from LACERS, the Employees Club and the Los Angeles Federal City Credit Union, as well as learn what the board is doing to maintain and improve retirement benefits.

As this event also serves as the general election meeting for the RLACEI Board, the meeting was called to order by President Ruth Perry, who welcomed attendees and opened the floor for nominations. Nominations Chair Beverly Anderson introduced board members and called to approve the 2024 Board of Directors slate. All ten board members were re-elected by the members present.

In attendance representing the Employees Club of California were CEO Robert Larios, Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman and *Alive!* editor John Burnes; LACERS Commissioners Michael Wilkinson and Elizabeth Lee; LACERS Executive Officer Todd Bouey; and Los Angeles Federal Credit Union Sr. Business Development/Social

Media Coordinator Robert Aguirre. American Sign Language interpreter Natalie Westfall was present for those Retirees in need of sign language assistance.

Robert Larios updated Retirees on the Club's activities and its commitment to partner with RLACEI. Mike Wilkinson and Todd Bouey provided LACERS updates. Robert Aguirre provided credit union updates.

Each member in attendance received a RLACEI 50th anniversary commemorative glass. Raffle gifts and prizes were provided by RLACEI, the Employees Club and the Los Angeles Federal Credit Union.



RLACEI President Ruth Perry hosted the event.

Those in attendance enjoyed the food, the company, and the raffles. The sack lunch, catered by Mr. Ardi's Catering, included a cheeseburger, fruit, potato salad, a cookie, sodas, and water. RLACEI provided coffee and cookies.

Members enjoyed themselves and were happy to socialize and reunite with co-workers whom they had not seen in a while.

Special thanks to those members who pitched in to help with the distribution of meals: Joe and Bonnie Zamora, Fern Johnson, and Sherrilyn Floyd-Henry. And a big "thanks" to volunteers Anna Smith and Jennifer Artinian-Marshall for their assistance in registration and setting up for the event.

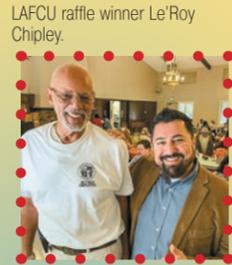
A wonderful time was had by all!



**More pictures on Web Alive!**



Top row, from left: Rachel Griffin, Retired, Convention Center, 33 years of City service, and Club CEO Robert Larios. Bottom: Diona Medina, Retired, Public Works/Accounting, 37 years, with her spouse, Alfonso, Retired, Public Health, LA County.



From left: Anthony Vann, Retired, Harbor, 18 years of City service, with Club CEO Robert Larios.

Top row, from left: Michael Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner, 34 years of City service; and Club CEO Robert Larios. Bottom: Jim Iwaki, Retired, Community Development, 29 years; and Jerry Bardwell, Retired, LACERS, 30 years.



From left: Ruth Perry, President, RLACEI; Beverly Clark, Vice President, RLACEI; and the Club's Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales, and CEO Robert Larios.



From left: Umas Vyas, Retired, LADOT, 21 years of City service; Liz Lee, LACERS Board of Commissioners, 26 years; and Club CEO Robert Larios.



Retired Club Board Member Vas Singh, Finance, 17 years of City service, with Club CEO Robert Larios.



RLACEI directors who were re-elected to the board at the meeting, and who were present, included (top row, from left): Leo Torres, Tom Moutes and Mark Blunk. Bottom: Lucy Artinian, Ruth Perry (RLACEI President); Beverly Clark (RLACEI Vice President); and Beverly Anderson.



Club raffle winner Peter Lam, Retired, ITA, 20 years of City service, with Club CEO Robert Larios.



Top row, from left: Barbara Davis, Retired, Library, 33 years of City service; Muriel Gee, Retired, LAFD; and Club CEO Robert Larios. Seated: Mark Gee, husband of Muriel.



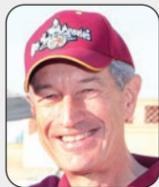
LAFCU raffle winner Kawal Soni, Retired, LADOT.



Lynette Howlett, Retired, Airports, 30 years of City service, with RLACEI Director Mark Blunk.



Club raffle winner Jeff Senac, Retired, Rec and Parks, 26 years of City service, with Club CEO Robert Larios.



## LACERS BOARD UPDATE

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner • MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com

### Open Enrollment Offers New Anthem Medical Supplement Plan

Yes, it is that time of year again! Open enrollment is here. This is the time to make changes to your health or dental plan or add an eligible dependent.

Remember, if you are happy with your current plan, no action is needed. Your current selections will continue as-is!

The big news is the addition of a Medicare Supplement plan from Anthem for the 2024 plan year. Many members are happy with the current choice of the Anthem Blue

Cross Medicare Preferred PPO (a Medicare Advantage plan), and this plan will continue for the new plan year. However, some members missed the Anthem PPO Medicare Supplement plan. We listened, and the Anthem PPO Medicare Supplement plan is now an option for 2024. If you want this plan you must sign up during the Open Enrollment period.

Open enrollment is a great time to review your health and dental options and to have your ques-

tions answered by experts. Both LACERS Health and Wellness staff and representatives from the health carriers will be present.

An Open Enrollment packet will be mailed to all Retired members in early October for the Open Enrollment period that begins from Oct. 16 through Nov. 16, 2023. You can register for a virtual (Zoom) meeting or "an in-person" meeting via your MyLACERS account or by calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

### Virtual meeting:

- Anthem Blue Cross**  
Wed. Oct. 18, 10 a.m.
- Kaiser**  
Thurs., Oct. 19, 10 a.m.
- UHC and SCAN**  
Wed., Oct. 25, 10 a.m.
- Delta Dental**  
Thurs., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.
- Anthem Blue Cross**  
Tue., Oct. 31, 2 p.m.

### In-person meetings:

- Alhambra**  
Thursday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.  
Almanson Court  
700 So. Almanson St.,  
Alhambra, CA 91801
- Ontario**  
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.  
Double Tree Hotel  
222 N Vineyard,  
Ontario, CA 91764
- Van Nuys**  
Thursday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.  
Airtel Plaza Hotel  
7211 Valjean Ave.,  
Van Nuys, CA 91406



### RLACEI MEMBERS

Not an RLACEI member?

**Join and like us on FACEBOOK**

Call (800) 678-4145 x706 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG

## Become an RLACEI Member!



RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,300 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club and access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

**Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!**

## Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



**Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!** Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated. If you enjoy working with and assisting City Retirees, join us.

**For more information on this position contact:** Beverly Anderson at: Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org or (800) 678-4145 ext. 702



# Life's Important Moments



*Share your news... and send in a photo!*

Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

Send your photos and text online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments)



- Births**
- Weddings**
- Graduations**
- Special Achievements**
- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

## Retirements\*

Below is a listing of those who Retired from the City. To all we say, welcome to the best years!

*We honor the people who have spent their working lives building, managing and imagining a better LA, and are now Retired. We thank and appreciate all you have done!*

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Alcala, Ron	Mech. Helper	Rec and Parks	18	Gipson, Alfred I.	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	31	Pulst, Erika M.	Sr. Legislative Asst.	City Clerk	33
Alexander, Shana M.	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	31	Gonzalez, Daniel M.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	17	Rad, Behzad Hassan	Wastewater Mgr.	Public Works	37
Almeida, Saul	St. Services Supt.	Public Works	31	Guillen, Larry	Civilian Sgt.	LAPD	28	Raffish, Julie S.	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	27
Berry, Chantey D.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	30	Guzman, Veronica	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Randle, Constance P.	Detention Officer	LAPD	28
Bodor, Adriana K.	St. Services Invest.	Public Works	11	Harbor, Kevin	Eng.	Harbor	31	Rendon, Margarita	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	17
Brennan, Nancy W.	Librarian	Library	32	Harris, Rhonda D.	Pr. Clerk	LAPD	39	Robinson, Tommy L.	Sr. Mech. Repairer	Airports	36
Brice, Sheila Z.	Sr. Environ.Eng.	Public Works	31	Herr, Terry V.	Pr. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	17	Robottom, Eileen D.	Information Tech	LADWP	N/D
Brockman, James G.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Ho, Michael P.	Mgmt.Analyst	Airports	10	Rogers, Patrick A.	Helicopter Mech. Supv.	Gen.Services	13
Cardenas, Trino J.	Instrument Mech.	Public Works	25	Hoeven, Gayle E.	Accounting Clerk	Airports	22	Sajadian, Soheila	Financial Mgr.	Harbor	22
Cohen, Evan J.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	28	Hrezo, Lawrence	St. Services Supt.	Public Works	36	Sakata, Richard T.	Warehouse/T/R Worker	Library	22
Coronado Jr. Raymundo	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Hsu, Lawrence L.	Pr. Civil Eng.	Public Works	30	Salandan, Crispulo N.	Fiscal Systems Spec.	Ec./Wrkfr. Dev.	26
De Guzman, Imelda V.	Pr. Accountant	Gen.Services	27	Jimenez, Jesse	Structural Eng. Ass.	Bldg. & Safety	35	Schuetz, Matthew J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
De Hart, Robert D.	Pr. Rec Supervisor	Rec and Parks	29	Johnson, Melodie R.	Info System Mgr.	Airports	32	Seid, Ruth E.	Pr. Librarian	Library	37
Dorman, Frederick D.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	30	Kapur, Leela A.	Executive Asst.	City Attorney	8	Smith, Kenneth J.	Sr. Systems Analyst	Bldg. & Safety	32
Dunlap, Steven R.	Pr. Grounds Maint. Supv.	Rec and Parks	37	Kidd, Reginal	St. Services Worker	Public Works	21	Smith, Stephanie D.	Airport Guide	Airports	18
Edwards, Brenetta	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Public Works	28	Kinar Melikoff, Rudolf	Building Civil Eng.	Bldg. & Safety	36	Soto, Miguel A.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Ellison, John D.	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	31	Larjaniha, Mehrdad	Dir., Comm. Services	ITA	39	Sower, Kevin P.	Admin. Clerk	LAPD	31
Endoma, Roberto T.	Build. Operating Eng.	Gen.Services	9	Lewis, Geoffrey A.	Equip. Repair Sup.	Gen.Services	27	Tarango, Christine	Commercial	LADWP	N/D
Fabian, Renato C.	Sr. Safety Eng. Press Ves.	Bldg. & Safety	26	Lowe, Sharon Mee Yung	Director	Housing	12	Torres, Randy R.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	28
Fama, Ellen E.	Crime/Intel Analyst	LAPD	15	Mabutas, Felipe P.	Custodian	Airports	15	Valdez Ramos, Magdalena	Admin. Clerk	Library	20
Farfan, Damon P.	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	36	Matzkin, Lloyd H.	St. Services Sup.	Public Works	24	Valdivia, George M.	Sr. Storekeeper	Library	29
Federis, Giselle C.	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAFD	31	Mendoza, Neftali A.	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	9	Vandergrieff, Charles G.	Pr. Civil Eng.	Public Works	34
Fehrenbacher, Timothy	Welder	Gen.Services	17	Meza, Peter	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	19	Vernaci, Debra M.	Mgmt.Analyst	LAPD	10
Fernandez, John J.	Gardener Caretaker	Zoo	17	Mierez, Joyce E.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	38	Villa Agustin, Rene G.	Chief Mgmt.Analyst	Gen.Services	33
Fimbres, Marie Y.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	21	Munoz, John J.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	38	Villegas, Jose J.	Library Asst.	Library	36
Fuertes, Edwin A.	Programmer/Analyst	Harbor	16	Negandhi, Nitin J.	Environ. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	17	Vince, Martin O.	Gen.Services	LADWP	N/D
Galicia, Frank J.	Truck Operator	Public Works	18	Nossett, Denice A.	Sr. Librarian	Library	31	Viray, Jose R.	Wastewater Treat.Elec.	Public Works	37
Ganier, Sandra A.	Pr. Clerk	LAPD	36	Orozco, Jesus O.	Wastewater Treat. Elec.	Public Works	10	Waters, Alban D.	Police Officer	Airports	33
Garcia, Joaquin R.	Bindery Equip. Op.	Gen.Services	28	Paiso, Susan M.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	25	Webster, Andrew L.	Water Supply	LADWP	N/D
Garner, Yolander	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	24	Perez, Jose L.	Maint. Laborer	Public Works	22	Westphal, Lois L.	Animal Control Off.	Animal Serv.	10
Gee, Muriel C.	Sr. Mgmt.Analyst	LAFD	27	Pham, Trang My	Env. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	21	Zambrano, James J.	Sr. Systems Analyst	Planning	32
Gioiello, Antonio V.	First Deputy Gen. Mgr.	Harbor	40	Pon, Darryl L.	Landscap Arch./PM	Zoo	31				

N/D = No Data

\* **NOTE:** If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at [admin@aliveemployeesclub.com](mailto:admin@aliveemployeesclub.com), stating the name and department of the Retired person. The request must come from the actual Retired person. We derive our lists from official public records provided by the City and LADWP.

## In Memoriam

*We honor those who have passed away and recognize their lifelong service to the City of Los Angeles. Their lives mattered to our City and our region. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the following current and Retired City employees who were reported to have passed away.*

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>ACTIVE</b>		Figueroa, Simon S.	N/D	Potter, Shirley A.	N/D
Barraza, Eleanor	Transportation 12	Galyon, John A.	Public Works 29	Rahman, Mushtaqur	LADWP 25
Engle, Rene Z.	Transportation 17	Garibaldi, Lionel P.	Public Works 31	Ramsey, Linda L.	Library 31
Loretto, Calvin A.	LADWP 33	German, Alfred	Rec and Parks 22	Redulfin, Gualberto B.	Controller 23
Nichols, Claude A.	Airports 11	Hall, Harold C.	LADWP 27	Rivera, Felix R.	General Services 19
Sanchez, Estela	General Services 3	Hatcher, Thomas	Public Works 31	Rodriguez, Edward E.	N/D N/D
Tucker, Larry D.	General Services 7	Harper, Gary A.	Transportation 34	Rohman, Jacqueline	N/D N/D
Wood, Patricia	Public Works 22	Hsu, James S.	General Services 28	Sakado, Mitchell M.	LADWP 32
		Huffmon, Beverly	LADWP 31	Sever, Eileen D.	N/D N/D
		Iwamoto, Stanley G.	LADWP 38	Shaw, Gary R.	Airports 19
		Jackson, Robert D.	LADWP 27	Smith, Roger A.	LADWP 29
		Jefferson, David H.	N/D N/D	Spann, Billy G.	N/D N/D
<b>RETIRED</b>		Jennings, James W.	LADWP 30	Strehl, Daniel J.	Library 30
Alaniz, Filiberto S.	Rec and Parks 31	Joh, Paul B.	Public Works 33	Sutlovich, Dennis R.	Building and Safety 35
Alvarez, Ronald S.	General Services 28	Kroner, William L.	N/D N/D	Tabb, Edith G.	Library 5
Balba, Ernesto F.	LADWP 18	Lezaja, Zdenka	Harbor 25	Tafoya, Arthur	N/D N/D
Blumstein, Ann F.	Library 37	Mace, Leonard W.	Harbor 36	Taylor, Ronnie E.	LADWP 21
Capozza, Richard F.	LADWP 15	Miller, James E.	Finance 12	Ungerman, Edward L.	LADWP 26
Carey, John M.	City Clerk 37	Mitchell, Theodore R.	Transportation 46	Walker, Rose	General Services 37
Carpenter, John E.	Building and Safety 17	Mulloy, Francis	Public Works 12	Wheeler, Ronald L.	LADWP 13
Chavez, Charlie J.	LAPD 30	Pardo, Pascual B.	LADWP 9	Whitton, Ramona	LADWP 31
Clemens, Marsha J.	N/D N/D	Patterson, Richard	N/D N/D	Williams, Donald G.	N/D N/D
Croft, Richard L.	LADWP 22	Payton, Patricia O.	LADWP 33	Williams, Leon R.	N/D N/D
Dahle, Alan G.	City Attorney 36	Perez, Carol F.	City Attorney 10	Williams, Romeo	N/D N/D
Elioff, Dick P.	N/D N/D	Picott, Robert J.	N/D N/D		
Fernandez, Erlinda G.	Library 16				

N/D = No Data

# Schiry Says Goodbye, Grandly

Photos courtesy Daniel Monroe

SCHIRY MONROE RETIRES AFTER 43 YEARS IN GRAND STYLE.



Schiry Monroe retired in grand style.

**LADWP:** Schiry Monroe, Sr. Documentation Technician, LADWP, retired in grand style with a celebration of her career May 20 at the Marriott Hotel in Marina del Rey.

She retired after 43 years of City service. She is a Club Member.

Her retirement party was an "all-white gala," with everyone wearing formal attire in white.

Congratulations, Schiry, on a spectacular career at the LADWP, and a party to match. We honor you for your service and dedication to Los Angeles. ●



From left: Schiry's husband, James Monroe, Retired, LADWP, Sr. Information Systems Supervisor, 33 years of City service; and son Daniel.



Schiry Monroe with Janice Borders.



Schiry with Zara Madison.



Venest Henry-Evans



From left: Cheryl Barnes and Kim Horne.



Family, friends and former colleagues gathered to wish Schiry Monroe a happy retirement.



Carl Carranza

# Carl Sets Sail

CARL CARRANZA RETIRES AFTER 17 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

Story and photos courtesy Rec and Parks

**REC AND PARKS:** The Cabrillo Aquarium crew said goodbye to Carl Carranza, Aquarium Educator, with a party in late January. Carl retired from the aquarium after 17 years of City service.

**His colleagues wrote:** "Cabrillo would like to say final farewells to someone special! We thank Carl for 17 years of

friendship, support and love. You are a valued member of the community and have been tremendous spokesperson for the aquarium. We thank everyone that joined us for our retirement party and helped us give Carl the proper send off he deserves! We will miss you sorely and hope that you enjoy retirement!"

Congratulations, Carl! We honor you and thank you for your service. ●

At Carl's retirement party.



Carl Carranza sits on his throne as staff gathered to wish him a happy retirement.



100 N. 1<sup>ST</sup> St., Ste. 301, Burbank, CA 91502  
888-801-5522 CA License #0252636

## Club Members! Save on your Auto Insurance!

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A FREE Benefit to members of the Employees Club

These insurance products are brought to you by the Club's Partner, United Agencies, Inc. CA Lic. # 0252636 United Agencies represents Mercury Insurance Group, as well as Chubb Insurance, Hartford, Fireman's Fund, Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allied, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Encompass.

Photo by Keith Kesler, Library



Accepting extra copies of *Alive!* were (from left) Krystal Ruiz, Public Relations Specialist, Club Member; Lauren Kratz, Librarian III and Octavia Lab Manager; Aldrich Linton, Librarian; and John Burnes, *Alive!* editor.

## Papers to the Makerspace

**LIBRARY:** *Alive!* editor John Burnes (right) stopped by the Central Library's Octavia Lab makerspace to say hello and thanks for a great August cover – and to drop off the coveted extra copies of *Alive!* for staff. Our cover story interview/photo shoot was one of our favorites, and we look forward to working together in the future! ●

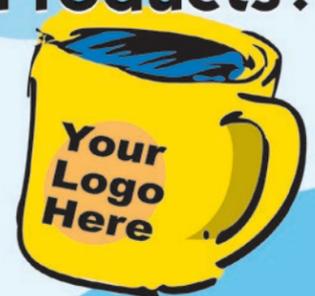


Our August cover.

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FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

## LACERS Continues Temp. Hours from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LACERS welcomes all current and Retired City employees to its new headquarters at 977 N. Broadway. Temporary hours are now in effect: 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. No appointments are needed.

A current government-issued photo identification or City employee badge is required to enter the building except when attending public meetings of the LACERS Board of Administration. Also, parking is not available at the building. Paid parking lots, public transit, and street parking are available nearby.

Additionally, online options will continue to be available to you. Use the LACERS' Secure Document Upload found at [lacers.org/secure-document-upload](https://lacers.org/secure-document-upload) to submit forms or required documents, visit our website at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org) to obtain benefits information; log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details; and visit the found LACERS' YouTube channel at [youtube.com/lacersyoutube](https://youtube.com/lacersyoutube) where you can find a wealth of benefits videos. Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking our website periodically at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org), contacting us by email at [lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org), and by phone at (800) 779-8328. ●

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

## Open Enrollment for 2024 Begins Oct. 16

LACERS Health Benefits' Open Enrollment for 2024 is planned for Oct. 16 - Nov. 16, 2023. The Open Enrollment period is an opportunity for Retired Members to enroll in a health or dental plan, change their plan or add dependents, with changes becoming effective Jan. 1, 2024. The Open Enrollment materials will be mailed in early October and will be available at [lacers.org/open-enrollment](https://lacers.org/open-enrollment).

For Members under age 65 and non-Medicare, your Open Enrollment packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and instructions on accessing the 2024 Health Benefits Guide online.

For Members aged 65 and older with Medicare Parts A & B or B only, your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and a 2024 Health Benefits Guide.

For Members who are non-Medicare but whose dependent has Medicare A & B, a Health Benefits Guide will be included in your packet.

### New Anthem Medicare Supplement

LACERS is excited to announce that the Anthem Medicare Supplemental plan will be available in 2024. More information about the benefits of this plan will be published in the 2024 Health Benefits Guide in October. Members wishing to enroll in this plan must complete and submit enrollment forms to LACERS during the Open Enrollment period.

The 2023 LACERS medical and dental plan options listed below will continue for 2024. Please remember that your vision plan is part of your medical plan.

**Medical Plans Available:** Anthem Blue Cross HMO (CA only), Kaiser Permanente HMO/Senior Advantage (CA only), SCAN Health Plan (CA only), UnitedHealthcare (CA, AZ, or NV), Anthem Blue Cross PPO/Medicare Preferred PPO (nationwide), and the new Anthem Medicare Supplemental plan (nationwide).

**Dental Plans Available:** DeltaCare USA HMO (CA or NV) and Delta Dental PPO (nationwide).

**Vision Plans Available:** Anthem Blue View Vision (for non-Kaiser Permanente Members), Kaiser (for Kaiser Permanente Members).

### ATTEND AN OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETING

Beginning Thursday, Sept. 14, Retired Members may register via their MyLACERS account or by calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328 for the following Open Enrollment meeting dates and locations:

#### VIRTUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETINGS

Anthem Blue Cross	Oct. 18, 2023	10 a.m.
Kaiser Permanente	Oct. 19, 2023	10 a.m.
UnitedHealthcare and SCAN Health Plan	Oct. 25, 2023	10 a.m.
Delta Dental	Oct. 26, 2023	10 a.m.
Anthem Blue Cross (repeat)	Oct. 31, 2023	2 p.m.

#### IN-PERSON OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETINGS

Almanson Court 700 S Almanson St. Alhambra, CA 91801	Nov. 2, 2023	10 a.m.
DoubleTree Hotel 222 N Vineyard Ave. Ontario, CA 91764	Nov. 7, 2023	10 a.m.
Airtel Plaza Hotel 7211 Valjean Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91406	Nov. 9, 2023	10 a.m.

Registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit the LACERS website at [lacers.org](https://lacers.org)/open-enrollment or scan the QR code below with a smartphone.



## Getting Their Move On

THROUGHOUT LAST SUMMER, LACERS WELL HOSTED ORGANIZED WALKS FOR RETIREES ENROLLED IN THE FREE PROGRAM. *Photos courtesy LACERS Well Facebook group*



### SILVER LAKE HIKE

On June 22, LACERS Well hosted its first in-person 5-K hike/walk/run at the Silver Lake Reservoir, led by Benjamin Gaetos (advanced), Edeliza Fang (intermediate) and Sean Foy (beginner).



### GRIFFITH PARK HIKE

On Aug. 24, Ben Gaetos led a hike through Griffith Park.

The Club thanks those who organized the walks, and congratulates those who participated. You're taking your fitness and social lives seriously!



**INTERESTED IN A FUTURE WALK?**  
Email the program: [lacerswell@lacers.org](mailto:lacerswell@lacers.org)



# Life Insurance

FROM THE CLUB

If anyone relies on your income, you need Life Insurance.

### Get it today. Here's why:

- Think about your mortgage, children's tuition, funeral expenses and serious unforeseen expenses
- You should be covered for at least four to five times your salary
- Life insurance pays in addition to your City benefits and any individual life insurance policy you have in force.

To learn more about your insurance options, schedule a visit with our Club's insurance expert:



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
[cmartin@employeesclub.com](mailto:cmartin@employeesclub.com)  
Work cell: (213) 819-0794  
(800) 464-0452, Ext. 136

23 years of insurance experience  
CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.

**help@employeesclub.com**  
**Or call: (800) 464-0452**

LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. ('Employees Club of California') is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. No. is 0B98000.

Benefit Overview



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No matter what unpredictable antics your furry family member gets into, your family isn't complete without them. With MetLife Pet Insurance,<sup>1</sup> you can feel confident that their health and your wallet are protected if you're faced with an unexpected trip to the vet.

Why MetLife Pet Insurance?

- Flexible coverage with up to 100% reimbursement<sup>2</sup> and freedom to visit any U.S. licensed vet.
- Optional Preventive Care coverage.<sup>3</sup>
- 24/7 access to Telehealth Concierge Services.
- Discounts and offers on pet care.<sup>4</sup>
- MetLife Pet mobile app to submit and track claims, manage your pet's health and wellness and find nearby pet services.

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How Metlife Pet Insurance Works



**Take your pet to the Vet**

Visit any licensed vet, emergency clinic, or specialist in the US. There's no network of providers to worry about.



**Submit your claim**

Pay your pet's vet bill, and send us your claim along with vet records and invoice from the visit.



**Get money back**

MetLife will follow up with your vet for any missing info. Claims are typically processed in less than 2 weeks.



Scan with your mobile phone to get a quote or to enroll

1. Pet Insurance offered by MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC is underwritten by Independence American Insurance Company ("IAIC"), a Delaware insurance company, headquartered at 485 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10022, and Metropolitan General Insurance Company ("MetGen"), a Rhode Island insurance company, headquartered at 700 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886, in those states where MetGen's policies are available. Application is subject to underwriting review and approval. Like most insurance policies, insurance policies issued by IAIC and MetGen contain certain deductibles, co-insurance, exclusions, exceptions, reductions, limitations, and terms for keeping them in force. For costs, complete details of coverage and exclusions, and a listing of approved states, please contact MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC. MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC is the policy administrator authorized by IAIC and MetGen to offer and administer pet insurance policies. MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC was previously known as PetFirst Healthcare, LLC and in some states continues to operate under that name pending approval of its application for a name change. The entity may operate under an alternate, assumed, and/or fictitious name in certain jurisdictions as approved, including MetLife Pet Insurance Services LLC (New York and Minnesota), MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions Agency LLC (Illinois), and such other alternate, assumed, or fictitious names approved by certain jurisdictions.
2. Reimbursement options include: 70%, 80%, 90% and 100%. In addition, there is also a 50% option for MetGen underwritten policies only and a 65% option for IAIC underwritten policies only.
3. Can be purchased at an additional cost. For IAIC underwritten policies, optional Preventive Care coverage is based on a Schedule of Benefits. For MetGen underwritten policies, optional Preventive Care coverage is included in the annual limit.
4. May not be available in all states.
5. We do not cover all pre-existing conditions; just those covered by the previous provider.



# Cooking with the Club

Photos: Patty M. Larios



with Chef Robert Larios



## Easy Peasy Zucchini Fritters

Deliciously healthy zucchini fritters — easy, low-carb, and low-calorie!  
 Get your daily dose of veggies with this simple and satisfying appetizer or side dish. The secret to a crispy texture lies in removing excess water from the grated zucchini. The best way to do this? Cheesecloth!  
 Pair these fritters with Greek yogurt or ranch dressing for a delightful treat. Give it a few tries and you'll master the recipe in no time.

*¡Buen provecho! Chef Larios*

## Easy Peasy Zucchini Fritters

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1.5 pounds zucchini, grated
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

### DIRECTIONS: Prep time is 30-35 minutes

Serves 4



### Save on Hello-Fresh Deliveries

Join Chef Larios by making your own HelloFresh meals delivered to your home. Sign in to the Club website and access your Entertainment/My Club Deals to receive 16 free meals with promotional purchase, including free shipping on the first box!

### Cooking Tidbit

It is highly recommended that you use the cheesecloth to strain as much water out of the zucchini. If not enough water is removed, the fritters will not hold a firm, crispy form and texture.

### Food Quote:

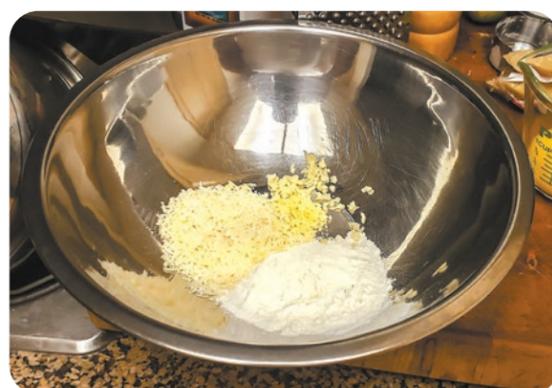
"When I pass a flowering zucchini plant in a garden, my heart skips a beat."

— Gwyneth Paltrow



**1** Toss zucchini and salt together in a large colander and place in sink to drain for 10 minutes.

**2** Put zucchini in the middle of a piece of cheesecloth; wrap cheesecloth around zucchini and squeeze to drain as much moisture from zucchini as possible.



**3** Mix flour, Parmesan cheese, egg, garlic, kosher salt, and pepper together in a large bowl. Stir in zucchini.



**4** Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.



**5** Scoop batter by the tablespoon into the hot skillet and fry until golden brown, about 2 minutes per side.



**6** Enjoy!

### Food Lover's Dictionary:



**Zucchini [zoo-KEE-nee]:** This popular summer squash is shaped like a slightly curved cylinder, a bit smaller at the top than the bottom. Fresh zucchini is available year-round in most supermarkets, with a peak period during late spring. Zucchini can be cooked by variety of methods, including steaming, grilling, sautéing, deep-frying and baking.

Copyright Barron's Educational Services, Inc. 2009, adapted from The New Food Lover's Companion, 2007, by Sharon Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst.

Reference: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/241422/easy-zucchini-fritters/> Accessed Sept. 30, 2020

# READ ALL ABOUT IT: It's Halloween!

We asked Librarians to recommend some scary Halloween stories. You are warned!

It's that time again to get reading and get scared! And courtesy of the Librarians at the Los Angeles Public Library.

The last few years, *Alive!* has reached out to Librarians at our favorite library, Los Angeles Public Library, for their recommendations for awesomely scary Halloween reads and watches. We're excited for another go-round in 2023, so here are fresh recommendations for you and your family this Halloween, traditionally the first event of the holiday season.

Thanks to the Librarians for their suggestions, and for their service and dedication to the City.

Enjoy these spooky stories, everyone! (Some are available via digital download; some are physical books available for checkout. Search at [lapl.org](http://lapl.org))

Recommendations by:  
Teen'Scape, Los Angeles Public Library  
Literature and Fiction Dept., LAPL  
Children's Literature Dept., LAPL  
Compiled by Susan Lendroth, LAPL



## For Adults

### London Séance Society

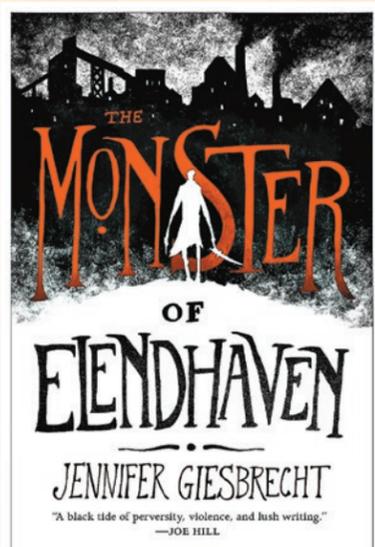
*Sarah Penner*  
In 1873, spiritualist Vaudeline D'Allaire conducts a séance at an abandoned chateau near Paris. Even though she is skeptical how occult powers could conjure up the dead, Lena Wickes attends a séance seeking information about her sister's death. Eventually both women go to England to work with London's Séance Society to solve a mystery but find themselves involved in something even more sinister.

### Going Zero

*Anthony McCarten*  
Surveillance and security cameras have become a routine part of modern life. What would happen if 10 people had been selected to test a new type of spyware called FUSION? Anthony McCarten's plot shows "how difficult it is to disentangle oneself from the digital web we have collectively created."  
*Reviewed by Daryl M. for LAPL Reads*

### The Monster of Elendhaven

*Anthony Carten*  
"This is a bleak, somber tale, grim with flashes of menace and violence. For those who relish the shadows and prefer to linger in the darkness rather than immediately turn on the lights when entering a room, this could be the novella for you."  
*Reviewed by Daryl M. for LAPL Reads*



## For Teen/ Young Adult Readers

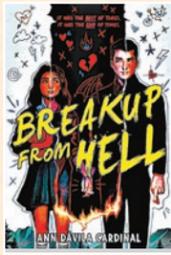
### FICTION TITLES



**Art of Being a Vampire**  
*Kate Karyus Quinn*  
The Art of Being Vampire follows Shelby, a teen girl troubled by her mother's drug use. After the death of her mother, she goes to live with her aunt and turns to photography as her means of coping. But Shelby is in a dark place and feels fit for rebellion. She meets Brandt, a boy she doesn't know is a vampire.  
*Summary from Goodreads*

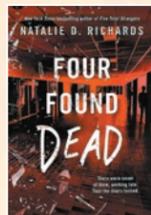
### Breakup from Hell

*Ann Dávila Cardinal*  
Miguela Angeles is tired: tired of her abuela keeping secrets, especially about her heritage, and tired of her small Vermont town and hanging out at the same places with the same friends she's known forever. So when another boring Sunday trip to church turns into a run-in with Sam, a mysterious hottie in town on vacation, Mica seizes the opportunity to get closer to him.  
*Summary from Goodreads*



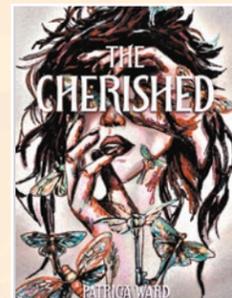
### Four Found Dead

*Natalie D. Richards*  
At the movie theater where Jo works, the last show has ended. But the nightmare is just beginning.  
*Summary from Goodreads*



### The Cherished

*Patricia Ward*  
For fans of Claire Legrand, Rory Power and Danielle Vega comes a visceral horror thriller in the vein of Midsommar, as one girl inherits a mysterious house from her estranged grandmother—and a letter with sinister instructions.  
*Summary from Goodreads*



## GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA TITLES

### Ibitsu

*Haruto Ryo, translated by Paul Starr*  
Urban legend has it that a girl in Gothic Lolita garb will sometimes appear at local garbage drops in the middle of the night, putting a question to passersby – "Would you have a little sister?" To reply is to seal one's fate and meet with a diabolical death at the hands of none other than this twisted sister! And tonight, another man will fall prey to the horror.  
*Summary from Goodreads*

### Sadako at the End of the World

*Koma Natsumi; translated by Caleb Cook; lettered by Lys Blakeslee*  
After the world comes to an end, a pair of sisters plays a certain infamous video tape, but Sadako appears. They're just happy to meet another girl in this post-apocalyptic world.  
*Summary by Goodreads*



### Shiver: Selected Stories

*Junji Ito*  
This volume includes nine of Junji Ito's best short stories, as selected by the author himself and presented with accompanying notes and commentary.  
*Summary from Goodreads*

### Mieruko-chan

*Tomoki Izumi*  
This is a comedy about a girl who sees scary/gross-looking ghosts and has to pretend she doesn't.  
*Summary by Goodreads*



### Nicnevin and the Bloody Queen

*Helen Mullane*  
Something strange has been unleashed in the north of England. A modern-day druid commits a series of ghastly murders in an attempt to unleash the awesome power of the ancient gods of Great Britain. But all hell really breaks loose when his latest would-be victim, Nicnevin "Nissy" Oswald, turns out to be more than she seems.  
*Summary by Goodreads*

### Chilling Adventures of Sabrina

*Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa; illustrated by Robert Hack*  
On the eve of her sixteenth birthday, the young sorceress Sabrina Spellman finds herself at a crossroads, having to choose between an unearthly destiny and her mortal boyfriend, Harvey. But a foe from her family's past has arrived in Greendale, Madame Satan, and she has her own deadly agenda.  
*Summary by Goodreads*

## For Young Readers

### A Super Scary Narwhalloween (A Narwhal and Jelly Book)

*Ben Clanton*  
Narwhal is excited for Halloween, but Jelly is nervous and doesn't enjoy scary stuff. What are two friends to do?



### Bruce and the Legend of Soggy Hollow

*Ryan T. Higgins*  
Bruce doesn't like holidays and he is not looking forward to Halloween. His family decides that the best way to get him into the Halloween spirit is by telling a scary story!

### Got Me a Cat

*Darcy Pattison*  
A cat appears in Benji's front yard on Halloween and he is certain it is meant to be his, but his parents say no pets. Turns out the cat belongs to his next door neighbor's granddaughter, Erika, who stays with her grandma during the week to attend a local school for the deaf. Erika and Benji strike up a friendship and together they take care of her cat Fluffy.

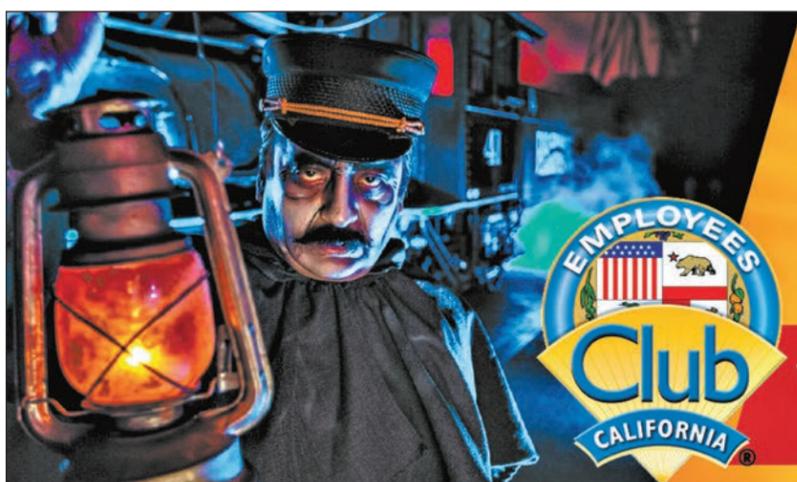


### If Your Babysitter Is a Bruja

*Ana Siqueira*  
When you get a new babysitter the night before Halloween, it's a good idea to make sure she's not a bruja (witch)! Does she wear a black sombrero and cackle like a crow? Better read this book so you'll know what to do next!

### Nina Soni, Halloween Queen

*Kashmira Sheth*  
Hoping to make some money, Nina Soni decides to use the large stack of boxes in her family's basement to create her very own scary haunted house – but she doesn't have a lot of time to do it. Nina and her American-Indian family are very busy preparing to celebrate Diwali just three days before Halloween. She'll need to get her friends and family's help to pull off this haunted house in time.



# SPOOKTACULAR

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{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 107  
UPDATE

# People We See

*Shelterless in Los Angeles.*



{ AN UPDATE TO A 'PEOPLE WE SEE'  
WE PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2023. }

*Photographs by John Hawkins*

## Daniel Mathis Goes Home

**In** April, Association President John Hawkins interviewed Daniel Mathis, whom John met while Daniel was living on Glendale Boulevard just north of downtown.

Because of that "People We See" interview, Daniel's mother was able to locate him and bring him home.

"Until I saw your article, I had no idea where he was," his mother, Christina Mathis, said by phone from her home in Petaluma. "I had looked for him before, but not in a while because I wasn't getting anywhere."

On her birthday, Aug. 11, Christina decided to search for him again online. This time, she discovered from the *Alive!* article that Daniel was living on Glendale Boulevard near the Clark Street Bakery.

Seeing him in *Alive!* "was kind of shocking because I had gone in circles so many times. When I saw him online, I about fell out of the chair."

It was Daniel's answer to one of John Hawkins' questions that put her into action. "John asked him where he saw himself in five years, and Daniel said he hoped he would be dead. That got me," Christina continued.

Christina then called John Hawkins, who gave her tips on Daniel's condition and possible locations around the bakery.

A week or so later, Tropical Storm Hilary was bearing down on Southern California, so Christina and her other son, Andy, hopped in their car in Petaluma and headed to Los Angeles. "The weather people were talking about flooding, so I figured we had to leave immediately."

They left Petaluma at 1 a.m. on Aug. 20 and arrived early that Sunday.

"We started looking for him right away, but we couldn't find him. We went to the

bakery and figured to start there. They told us where Daniel tended to hang out, sometimes at Echo Park. I didn't see him anywhere at the park. But we decided to walk down a street instead of driving. We got about 20 steps away, and there he was sleeping in a cubbyhole in front of a business.

"It shocked me the way he looked."

By his response, Daniel couldn't believe it, either. "When we were standing over him and he was asleep, it took me a few seconds to realize I wasn't seeing things. That really was Daniel. And I think he was so shocked that I don't know what he was feeling."

Christina and Andy helped Daniel into their car and bought him some new clothes down the street. From there they were back in Petaluma that night, ahead of the storm that day.

"I haven't had an epiphany or anything like that," she continues. "But I had no doubt we would find him," she remembered. "It was probably stupid of me to think that way. It's kind of a miracle. I hope it all works out in the end."

After she got Daniel back home, she called John Hawkins to tell him that Daniel had been found and brought home.

"It's been an absolute miracle," Christina says. "It's a miracle you interviewed him, and it's a miracle I found him."

"The people at the bakery were just fantastic, just so nice. The nicest group of people I think I've ever been around."

"And to John Hawkins, thank you for caring about all these people." ●



The Clark Street Bakery on Glendale Boulevard near Echo Park.



FROM APRIL 2023



{ In this feature, Association President John Hawkins introduces you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and our stories to tell. }

— OVERFLOW TO WEB ALIVE!

The *Alive!* Feature, continued

The *Alive!* Interview

- continued from page 15

church and a theater, it is hallowed ground in this community. And to know that I have been a part of stewarding that, of being of service in this way, has been the honor and pleasure of my life.

**You had talked earlier about being an actress, dancer and choreographer as well as a filmmaker; all those things are enormously creative. But I can't imagine this being any less creative.**

**Yvonne:** Project management is extremely creative! When you have felt what it's like to be on stage and experience the creative force moving inside you; and then to know that it's now been redirected in this new way, and you again feel that creative force working in you through this medium – oh, my goodness, what a high! It's an affirmation of the Spirit at work in everything we do. I am so very grateful.

**Asatur, Yvonne, and Daniel, thank you so much for your time and all you do for the citizens of LA.**

**Daniel:** Thank you for allowing us to tell the story of DCA's Vision Theatre and give you a glimpse into its future!

**Asatur:** I appreciate it. Thank you.

**Yvonne:** *Ashe!* – And So It Is, Amen



# A New Vision

On stage at the nearing-completion Vision Theater in South LA are (from left) Daniel Tarica, General Manager, Cultural Affairs; Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, Club Member; and Asatur Keymetlyan, Sr. Architect, Public Works/Engineering.

## *Alive!* AROUND THE WORLD

### Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



### Letter From Italy, Pt. 3 Salerno, Amalfi and Capri

— continued from page 8

**DAY TWO:** To explore the 40 kilometers (25 miles) of the Amalfi Coast from Salerno to Positano, you could rent a car, allowing the passengers to enjoy the views from the winding road overlooking the blue sea thousands of feet below. But during the fall and winter seasons, the road conditions are very difficult for drivers unfamiliar with the narrow road, and it's common to find them stopped at blind corners in total panic when they see a bus coming from the opposite direction!

We chose to take the 5120 bus (tickets can be bought at any tobacco shop) from Salerno to Amalfi. In peak season, the bus leaves every 20 minutes, but remember that, late in the day, many schoolchildren and tourists (with suitcases) may be on board.

If possible, sit on the same side as the driver to get the whole experience of this beautiful, mind-blowing, and sometimes quite terrifying ride around blind corners with a thousand-foot drop into terraced vineyards and the Azure-colored Tyrrhenian Sea below. In places the road is wide enough only for the bus, so cars must back up at tight corners. One nearly feels sorry for those who rented a car and wished they hadn't!

The village of Amalfi is one of the coast's most popular tourist attractions, with its magnificent Sant'Andréa cathedral, large and winding staircase and bell tower designed to mimic the Arab-Norman style. Nearby are many restaurants where you can enjoy dinner before catching the late ferry back to Salerno as the last rays

of the sun cast their golden light over the luxury yachts at anchor in one of the most picturesque places in the world.

**DAY THREE:** Capri is a long ferryboat ride from Salerno, so catch an early boat to have a full day exploring this glamorous isle. The island is near Naples and is a popular tourist destination known for its gorgeous sunsets, Blue Grotto and playground for the rich and famous. A longtime favorite destination for Hollywood's elite actresses including Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton's tumultuous love affair occurred against the stunning backdrop of the island's rugged cliffs and sparkling seas. Today, most celebrities stay on their luxury yachts moored near Marina Piccola right beneath the Faraglioni cliffs or at the Capri Marina, avoiding the tourist crowds and disembarking only in the evening to dine at one of the island's restaurants or spend the evening at a club. Mariah Carey owns a villa on Capri, and Hollywood stars like Leonardo DiCaprio, Lindsay Lohan and Julian Lennon have vacationed there. So, who knows which famous artists, politicians or celebrities you might bump into at this fantasy destination.

*Arrivederci per ora, Capitano.*

*It's interesting to note that Salerno is where the Allied Forces landed during Operation Avalanche, the invasion of Italy during World War II.*

